

## DESCRIPTION OF SNAKES APPARENTLY NEW.

By C. W. De VIS, M.A.

IT is impossible to diagnose these species of snakes and neglect to pay a large tribute of gratitude to their discoverer, a friend who, fortunately for us, inherits from his father his love of and aptness for scientific investigation—Dr. T. L. Bancroft. Induced by a sense of the value of research into the nature and action on the human system of snake venom, with the view of discovering remedial agents, Dr. Bancroft has been led to do good service to this cause among others, both by his own studies and by supplying other experts with the venom of our Australian snakes. Happily for both purposes, Stannary Hills, the district in which he has lately been sojourning, and other localities, have rendered up to his energetic inquiries previously unknown forms of venomous snake life. It is good for us to have all the knowledge possible of that life, and no disinterested effort for the good of mankind should be allowed to pass without receiving tokens of respect.

### **TROPHIDECHIS DUNENSIS, n.s.**

Muzzle short and obtuse. Eye twice as long as its distance from the mouth, as long as its distance from the nostril; rostral much broader than long; its portion visible from above, shorter than the internasals; prefrontals and internasals about equal in length; frontal tumid on the sides, one-fifth longer than broad, as long as the parietals, more than twice as broad as the supraoculars, deeply sulcated mesially, the sulcus broad in front, narrow posteriorly; nasal tumid, semidivided by a suture on its lower margin, in contact with the anterior ocular; supraorbital narrow, forming with the prefrontals a rather distinct canthus rostralis; oculars 1-1, the anterior sunken, the posterior large (probably fused with an upper temporal); temporal single, wedged in between the fifth and sixth upper labials; upper labials seven, third and fourth entering the orbit; two pairs of chin shields between the incurved first lower

labial, the anterior greatly enlarged, twice as large as the posterior, in contact with three lower labials. Scales in 21 rows, all carinated; ventrals 216, subcaudals 52; anal entire. Rather pale rufous brown; upper edge of rostral, hinder edge of prefrontals, two spots in the sulcus of the frontal, an inverted V-shaped bar from posterior angle of frontal to the last upper labial on each side, a bar from the side of the frontal to the penultimate upper labial, bars edging the other upper labials, a vertebral line beginning in lanceolate form within the  $\Delta$  and partially broken up into lenticular blotches, and 62 irregular shaped vertical bars with white edges on the sides, all these markings black; beneath white, the ventrals with more or less broad dark edges and two rows of quadrangular dark spots on their sides. Total length 360 mm.; tail 48 mm.

Loc.: Darro, Darling Downs.

Presented by Dr. T. L. Bancroft.

#### DENISONIA REVELATA, n.s.

Eye moderately large, its least diameter greater than its distance from the mouth; pupil broadly elliptical, erect; rostral broader than long, its posterior edges quadrilateral, its upper surface visible from above, and nearly as long as the internasals; internasals two-thirds as long as the prefrontals; frontals rather more than half as long again as broad, its suture with the prefrontals a straight line—twice as broad as the supraoculars, longer than its distance from the end of the snout; nasal entire in contact with the preocular, orifice in an oblique groove; oculars 1-2; temporals 1-2; the lower posterior small, with its lower angle inserted between the fifth and sixth upper labials; upper labials six, the third and fourth entering the orbital ring; three lower labials in contact with the anterior chin shield, which is as long as the posterior. Scales round the body in 19 rows; anal entire; ventrals 206, distinctly angulated and faintly emarginate above the angle; subcaudals 50, in one row. Tail one-seventh of the total length.

Body uniform blackish brown above, smoky brown beneath; nape and spots on lips and temporals white; head above pale brown; rostral, nasal, and hinder half of prefrontals black; a black blotch on the supraorbital adjacent to the frontal, continuous with another expanding on the middle of the parietals, forms with its fellow two

lines which unite, and sending backwards a short streak on the nape produce a figure like that of a tuning-fork; lips and temporals with black spots; nape broadly edged posteriorly with black.

Loc.: Stannary Hills.

Presented by Dr. T. L. Bancroft.

This snake Dr. Bancroft has found to be rare.

#### DENISONIA ROSTRALIS, n.s.

Eye about one of its diameters from the mouth; rostral shallow, with a rather sharp edge on its downward and backward curve, its upper surface broader than long and nearly as long as the prefrontals; internasals shorter than the prefrontals; frontal nearly twice as long as broad, more than twice as broad as the supraocular, longer than the parietals and longer than its distance from the end of the snout; nostril in a small trapeziform shield, separated from the preocular by the lateral limb of the prefrontal, which forms a suture with the second labial; oculars 1-2; temporals 2-2, the lower anterior wedged in between the fifth and sixth upper labials; upper labials six, third and fourth entering the orbit, sixth large; three lower labials in touch with the anterior chin-shields, which are longer than the posterior, the latter separated by a pair of lanceolate scales. Scales in 15 rows; ventrals 140, subcaudals 22; anal entire. Above pinky-white; scales, lowest laterals excepted, with black posteriorly lunate edges forming a complete reticulation; snout marbled and vertex spotted with black, rest of head densely reticulated; on the nape a black space extending from the fifth to the fifteenth nuchal scale; beneath white. Total length 332 mm.; tail 35 mm.

Loc.: Stannary Hills.

Presented by Dr. T. L. Bancroft.

#### DENISONIA BANCROFTI, n.s.

Eye distant about one diameter from mouth; rostral a little broader than deep, barely visible from above, internasals about two-thirds as long as the prefrontals; frontal about one and one-third as long as broad, shorter than its distance from the end of the snout, thrice as broad as the supraoculars, considerably shorter than the parietals; nasal entire, triangular, separating the

rostral from the first labial, widely separated from the preocular by the prefrontal which forms a suture with the second labial; oculars 1-2; temporals 1-2, the anterior wedged in between the fifth and sixth upper labials; upper labials seven, third and fourth entering the orbit, first very small and triangular; three lower labials in touch with the anterior chin-shields, which are larger than the posterior. Scales in 15 rows; ventrals 185, subcaudals 33, anal entire. Above grey; the nine median dorsal scales with black edges broadening laterally and forming longitudinal lines; head and nape black interrupted by a white transverse band occupying the space between the end of the frontal and the fourth nuchal scale; beneath white. Total length 190 mm., tail 40 mm.

Loc.: Stannary Hills.

Presented by Dr. T. L. Bancroft.

#### **PSEUDECHIS MORTONENSIS, n.s.**

Eye distant one and a half diameter from the mouth; rostral one-fourth broader than long, its upper surface two and a half times shorter than its distance from the frontal, as long as the internasals at their longest; suture between the internasals half as long as that between the prefrontals; frontal broader than the supraoculars, as long as its distance from the rostral; posterior nasal in touch with the preocular; oculars 1-2; temporals 2-2 (on one side 2-0), the lower anterior wedged in between the fifth and sixth upper labials; upper labials six, third and fourth entering the orbit; anterior chin-shield wedged in between the first and third lower labials, its apex touching the second; chin-shields equal in length. Scales in 19 rows; ventrals 191, subcaudals 60 (22 single, 38 pairs); anal divided. Above black; beneath dark lead-grey with a bluish tinge; ventrals with narrow black edges anteriorly; subcaudals paler than ventrals. Total length 1035 mm.; tail 20 mm.

Loc.: Brisbane Suburbs.

#### **PSEUDECHIS WILESMITHII, n.s.**

Eye moderately large, equal in diameter to its distance from the mouth, pupil round; rostral one-fourth longer than broad, nearly as broad as the internasals and prefrontal suture together are long, very visible from above, its apex a sharp point wedged between the internasals; internasals half as long as the prefrontals, separated

from the preocular by the prefrontals and nasals; nasal divided, the nostrils in the posterior moiety, which is widely separated from the preocular; frontal a little broader than the supraocular, rather more than one and a-half times as long as broad, its length seven-eighths of its distance from the rostral and equal to that of the parietals; oculars 2-2; \* upper labials seven, third and four entering the orbit; two lower labials in touch with the anterior chin-shield, which is much longer than the posterior. Scales in 23 rows (25 on the neck), the dorsals very narrow, the lower laterals nearly as broad as long; ventrals 233, subcaudals 63 pairs; anal entire, pale brown above becoming paler on the muzzle, which is spotted, and fading on the sides into ivory white on the ventrals; ventrals irregularly tinged and blotched with pale rose-red. Total length 2,215 mm.; tail 340 mm.

Loc.: Walsh River.

Presented by Dr. T. L. Bancroft.

#### **PSEUDELAPS BANCROFTI, n.s.**

Eye much longer than its distance from the mouth, pupil vertically subelliptic; rostral as long as broad, its upper surface as long as its distance from the frontal; internasals two-thirds of the length of the prefrontals; frontal less than half as long again as it is broad, longer than its distance from the end of the snout, shorter than the parietals; nasal entire, in touch with the preocular; oculars 1-2; temporals 1-2, the lower anterior moderately wedged in between the fifth and sixth upper labials; six upper labials; the third and fourth entering the orbit; three lower labials in touch with the anterior chin-shields, which are much longer than the posterior, the latter separated by a scale. Scales in 17 rows; ventrals 188, subcaudals 59; anal divided. Head and nape to the eleventh scale light brown, edged posteriorly and superiorly by a few jet-black scales; inter-orbital region with an obsolete darker crossband; body and tail above pale greenish brown, on its posterior moiety seven broad blackish cross-bands; beneath yellowish white with quadrangular pink spots, two or more on each ventral, not forming longitudinal rows. Total length 587 mm., tail 100 mm.

Loc.: Stannary Hills.

Presented by Dr. T. L. Bancroft.

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\* Temporal regions damaged in extracting venom gland.