

The Dates of Publication of Amphibian and Reptile Names by Blanford and Stoliczka in the *Journal* and *Proceedings* of the Asiatic Society of Bengal

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Abstract.- The dates of publications of the *Proceedings* and the *Journal* of the Asiatic Society of Bengal are discussed. Several names of amphibians and reptiles were proposed, along with brief descriptions, by W. T. Blanford and F. Stoliczka in the monthly *Proceedings* before their intended formal description in the *Journal*, in some cases, a year before. These earlier publications constitute formal descriptions according to the Code of Zoological Nomenclature. A listing of two genera (one amphibian and one reptile) and 24 species (three amphibians and 21 reptiles) is appended; the type localities include Turkmenistan, Pakistan, India, Myanmar and Malaysia.

Key words.- Amphibians, reptiles, dates of publication, *Proceedings* and *Journal* of the Asiatic Society of Bengal.

Founded in 1784 by the Orientalist, Sir William Jones (1746-1794; see Cannon, 1960, for a biographic sketch), the Asiatic Society of Bengal, with its headquarters in Calcutta, has played, according to a report in *Nature* at the turn of the century, "...a leading part in the exploration of the natural history, philology, antiquities, and other branches of scientific inquiry connected with the East" (Anonymous, 1907). Although Jones himself was opposed to the collection of zoological specimens (Bose, 1885), examples of both plants and animals did start to arrive from various parts of the British Indian Empire, and occasionally from outside. Coupled with the expeditions organized or participated in subsequently by the staff of the Museum of the Society, the Asiatic Society of Bengal came to acquire one of the most important zoological reference collections in the world, which, after the passing of the Museum Act in 1866, came to the Indian Museum (Fermor, 1936) and is at present maintained by the Zoological Survey of India (Sewell, 1932; Das et al., 1998).

The periodicals of this two century old institution included the *Journal* and the *Proceedings*, which gradually replaced several leading oriental journals of the period, including the *Asiatick Researches* and the *Calcutta Journal of Natural History*. Because of delays in publishing the *Journal* (started in March 1832, the old series continuing until 1904, see Chaudhuri, 1956), the Society started the *Proceedings* in January 1865 (which were issued monthly till December 1904). The *Proceedings* was out "as soon as possible, after every monthly meeting", according

to the information on the cover page, as opposed to and separate from the more widely circulated *Journal*, which was published only once in two to three months (Mitra, 1885). As mentioned on an untitled page of the first issue, the separation of the *Journal* (which was issued in a "new series" between 1905 and 1934, when the *Proceedings* was reunited with the *Journal*) from the *Proceedings* was "In accordance with the announcement of the Council in the Annual Report read at the Annual General Meeting held on the 11th January, 1865" (Blanford and Heeley, 1865). Each fascicle of the *Proceedings* comprised 10-30 pages, and contained reports of the progress of the Society, including financial statements, additions of books to the library and coins to the Society's numismatic collection, exhibition notices, correspondence from its members and lists (and losses) of members, and also, "short notes, which were not deemed fit for introduction into the *Journal*" (Mitra, 1885).

Because the Society's *Proceedings* was less well known than the *Journal* and the ambiguity of descriptions in abstracts versus in "full papers", the dates of some of the descriptions of several genera and species of amphibians and reptiles from Asia have been assigned incorrectly in subsequent works (e.g., Smith, 1935; 1943) to the description published in the *Journal*, when, in fact, they were validly published earlier, in some cases, a year before, in the *Proceedings*. Some of the leading naturalists of the day read papers on faunistics, including the descriptions of new taxa, in the monthly meetings of the Society, which were reported as "abstracts" in the *Proceedings*. These

abstracts propose both new names and provide descriptions and diagnoses, thereby constituting a valid description according to the Code of Zoological Nomenclature. Since the aforementioned fascicles were generally issued monthly, and distributed to members through subscription, publication was rapid, leading to several names being available before their more complete description. In some of the cases, the titles of the papers published in the *Journal* and *Proceedings* were identical, in others, there were minor differences, such as the use of the more formal 'Reptilia' in Blanford (1879a) instead of 'reptiles' in Blanford (1879b). Regrettably, the type localities of some taxa are different in the two publications, the *Journal* tending to have a more precise type locality. In one instance, (Blanford, 1878a), the type locality ("Foot of Nawlabu hill, west of Tavoy") is different from that which appeared in the purported formal description (Blanford, 1878b: "Foot of Nawlabú Hill, east of Tavoy..."). If illustrations depicting the new taxon being described for the first time were provided, these appeared in the *Journal*. The months and, where available, dates of issue of each fascicle making available new zoological names are annotated with the references in Table 1. Only names published in the *Proceedings* that are at present attributed to the intended formal description in the *Journal* have been listed.

Names dealt with in this communication have been proposed either by William Blanford (1832-1905) of the Geological Survey of India, or Ferdinand Stoliczka (1838-1874), Secretary of the Natural History Department of the Asiatic Society of Bengal. Two genera (one amphibian and one reptile) and 24 species (three amphibians and 21 reptiles) were described as new by the aforementioned workers in the *Proceedings* before their intended formal publication in the *Journal*. Of these, one genus (an amphibian) and 16 species (three amphibians and 13 reptiles) are at present considered valid (see Table 1). The geographical coverage of the type localities includes Turkmenistan (five), Pakistan (five), India (five), Myanmar (six), and Malaysia (five).

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Table 1: List of names of herpetological taxa made available in the *Proceedings of the Asiatic Society of Bengal* before their intended formal publication in the *Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal*. References in the current allocation column refer to the most recent usage of the name, an important review of the taxon, the first time it was reallocated to a different genera, or inclusion in the first instance in the synonymy of an earlier name.

ORIGINAL NAME & TYPE LOCALITY	CURRENT ALLOCATION & REFERENCE	DATES OF PUBLICATION	
		PROCEEDINGS	JOURNAL
* <i>Polypedates Hascheanus</i> Stoliczka, 1870a: 104 "Penang hill" (= Pulau Pinang, West Malaysia). "..island of Penang" in Stoliczka, 1870b	<i>Taylorana hascheana</i> (Stoliczka, 1870a) Dubois, 1992	April 1870	June 1870
* <i>Hylorana Nicobariensis</i> Stoliczka, 1870a: 104 "Nicobars" (in the Bay of Bengal, India)	<i>Rana nicobariensis</i> (Stoliczka, 1870) Dubois, 1992	April 1870	June 1870
* <i>Ansonia</i> Stoliczka, 1870: 104 (type species <i>Ansonia Penangensis</i> Stoliczka, 1870a, by monotypy)	<i>Ansonia</i> Stoliczka, 1870a Inger, 1960	April 1870	June 1870
* <i>Ansonia Penangensis</i> Stoliczka, 1870a: 104 "Penang hill" (= Pulau Pinang, West Malaysia). "Penang", including "...above Alexandra bath..." and "...halfway up the Penang hill..." in Stoliczka, 1870b	<i>Ansonia penangensis</i> Stoliczka, 1870a Berry, 1975	April 1870	June 1870
* <i>Cyrtodactylus affinis</i> Stoliczka, 1870a: 105 "Penang" (= Pulau Pinang, West Malaysia). "Penang hill" in Stoliczka, 1870c	<i>Cnemaspis affinis</i> (Stoliczka, 1870a) Dring, 1979	April 1870	September 1870
* <i>Tiliqua rugifera</i> Stoliczka, 1870a: 105 "Nicobars" (in the Bay of Bengal, India). "Camorta, (Nicobars)" in Stoliczka, 1879c	<i>Mabuia rugifera</i> (Stoliczka, 1870a) April 1870 Greer, 1977	April 1870	September 1870
* <i>Mabouya Jerdoniana</i> Stoliczka, 1870a: 105 "Penang" (= Pulau Pinang, West Malaysia). "Pulo Tikos...north of Penang island" (= Pulau Tikus, West Malaysia) in Stoliczka, 1970c	<i>Enoia atrocostata</i> (Lesson, 1830) Brown, 1991	April 1870	September 1870
* <i>Riopa lineolata</i> Stoliczka, 1870a: 105 "Martaban" (= Mottama, southern Myanmar)	<i>Riopa (Lygosoma) lineolata</i> Stoliczka, 1870a See comments by Zhao and Adler, 1993	April 1870	September 1870

* <i>Ablabes Nicobariensis</i> Stoliczka, 1870a: 106 "Nicobars" (in the Bay of Bengal, India). "Nancowry haven on Camorta (Nicobars)" (in India) in Stoliczka, 1970e	<i>Liopeltis nicobariensis</i> (Stoliczka, 1870a) Wall, 1924	April 1870	September 1870
* <i>Cantorina Dayana</i> Stoliczka, 1870a: 107 "Amherst" (at the mouth of Moulmein [= Mawlamyine] River in Myanmar). "near Amherst.." in Stoliczka, 1870c	<i>Cantorina violaceus</i> Cantor, 1839 Smith, 1943	April 1870	September 1870
* <i>Trimeresurus mutabilis</i> Stoliczka, 1870a: 107 "Andamans and Nicobars" (in the Bay of Bengal, India)	<i>Trimeresurus labialis</i> (Fitzinger in Steindachner, 1867) Smith, 1943	April 1870	September 1870
* <i>Trimeresurus convictus</i> Stoliczka, 1870a: 108 "Penang" (= Pulau Pinang, West Malaysia). <i>Ovophis</i> "Western hill on Penang, at an elevation of about 2400 feet" in Stoliczka, 1870c	<i>Ovophis convictus</i> (Stoliczka, 1870a) Burger was made nomenclaturally available by Hoge and Romano-Hoge, "1978-1979" 1981: see Smith, 1989	April 1870	September 1870
* <i>Stellio Stoliczkanus</i> Blanford, 1875a: 201 "..plains of Eastern Turkestan" and "..around Yarkand and Káshgar" (in southern Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, western China). "Plains of Eastern Turkestan" in Blanford, "1875"b (1876)	<i>Stellio stoliczkanus</i> Blanford, 1875 Moody, 1980	November 1875	January 1876
* <i>Gymnodactylus elongatus</i> Blanford, 1875a: 201 "..plains of Eastern Turkestan" and "..around Yarkand and Káshgar" (in southern Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, western China). "Yangihissar, Eastern Turkestan" in Blanford, "1875"b (1876)	<i>Cyrtopodion elongatus</i> (Blanford, 1875a) Kluge, 1993	November 1875	January 1876
* <i>Gymnodactylus microtis</i> Blanford, 1875a: 201 "plains of Eastern Turkestan" and "..around Yarkand and Káshgar" (in southern Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, western China). "Yangihissar, Eastern Turkestan" in Blanford, "1875"b (1876)	<i>Alsophylax przewalskii</i> Strauch, 1887 Kluge, 1993	November 1875	January 1876

- **Eremias Yarkandensis* Blanford, 1875a: 201
 “..plains of Eastern Turkestan..” and “..around Yarkand and Káshgar..” (in southern Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, western China).
 “Eastern Turkistán” in Blanford, “1875”b (1876)
- **Eremias vermiculata* Blanford, 1875a: 202
 “..plains of Eastern Turkestan..” and “around Yarkand and Káshgar..” (in southern Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, western China).
 “Eastern Turkistán” in Blanford, “1875”b (1876).
 Restricted to “Yarkand (or Soche)” by Pope (1935)
- **Pyrodactylus homolepis* Blanford, 1875c: 232
 “Khirthar range, west of Upper Sind” (= Kirthar Range, Sindh Province, Pakistan). “..near the Makji Nai in the lower portion of the Kirthar range..” in Blanford, “1875”c (1876).
- **Stenodactylus orientalis* Blanford, 1875c: 232
 “..hills south of Rohri..” (in Sindh Province, eastern Pakistan). “South of Rohri in Upper Sind” in Blanford, “1875”c (1876)
- **Trapelus rubrigularis* Blanford, 1875c: 233
 “Khirthar range, west of Upper Sind” (= Kirthar Range, Sindh Province, Pakistan).
 “..base of Khirthar hills in Western Sind” in Blanford, “1875”c (1876)
- **Draco major* Blanford, 1878a: 141
 “..near Tavoy..” (in Myanmar). “forest east of Tavoy” including “from the foot of Nawlahú hill, a high ridge some eight miles east from Tavoy town” in Blanford, 1878b
- Eremias multiocellata* Günther, 1872
 Nikol’skii, 1963
 November 1875
 January 1876
- Eremias vermiculata* Blanford, 1875a
 Pope, 1935
 November 1875
 January 1876
- Pyrodactylus homolepis* Blanford, “1875”c
 (1876). Kluge, 1993
 December 1875
 June 1876
- Crossobamon orientalis* (Blanford, 1875c)
 Kluge, 1993
 December 1875
 June 1876
- Trapelus rubrigularis* Blanford, 1875c
 Moody, 1980
 December 1875
 June 1876
- Draco blanfordi* Boulenger, 1885
 Musters, 1983 and Henning, 1936. Not included in the synonymy of *Draco* spp. by Inger, 1983
 June 1878
 October 1878

* <i>Bronchocele burmana</i> Blanford, 1878a: 141 “..near Tavoy..” (in Myanmar)	<i>Bronchocele cristatella</i> (Kuhl, 1820) Boulenger, 1885	June 1878	October 1878
* <i>Ulupe</i> Blanford, 1878a: 141 (type species <i>Ulupe davisoni</i> Blanford, 1878a, by monotypy)	<i>Dryocalamus Günther</i> , 1858 Boulenger, 1893	June 1878	October 1878
* <i>Ulupe davisoni</i> Blanford, 1878a: 141 “Foot of Nawlabu hill, west of Tavoy” (in Myanmar). “..the foot of Nawlabú Hill, east of Tavoy..at an elevation of about 1,500 feet above the sea” in Blanford, 1878b.	<i>Dryocalamus davisoni</i> (Blanford, 1878a) Boulenger, 1893 (incorrectly revised to <i>Dryocalamus davisonii</i>)	June 1878	October 1878
* <i>Ophites gammiei</i> Blanford, 1878a: 141 “British Sikkim” (= Sikkim State, eastern India), “South-eastern Sikkim” in Blanford, 1878b. Smith (1943) erroneously gave the type locality as “Cinchona plain, Darjeeling” (in West Bengal State, eastern India)	<i>Dinodon gammiei</i> (Blanford, 1878a) Wall, 1923	June 1878	October 1878
* <i>Hypsirhina maculata</i> Blanford, 1879a: 216 “Bassein in Pegu” (in Myanmar). “Pegu..in the neighbourhood of Bassein” in Blanford, 1879b.	<i>Enhydria maculosa</i> (Blanford, 1881; replacement name for <i>Hypsirhina maculata</i> Blanford, 1879a, which is occupied by <i>Hypsirhina maculata</i> Duméril, Bibron and Duméril, 1854)	August 1879	November 1879