

***Pareas stanleyi* - A Record New to Sichuan, China and a Key to the Chinese Species**

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Abstract. - A specimen of the Fujian slug-eating snake, *Pareas stanleyi*, was collected in Sichuan Province, China for the first time. We provide a key to the Chinese species of *Pareas*.

Key words. - Serpentes, Colubridae, *Pareas*, China, Sichuan.

An adult male of the Fujian slug-eating snake, *Pareas stanleyi* (Boulenger, 1914) was captured from Muchansi, Liujiang Town, Hongya County, Southwestern Sichuan Province, China at noon on 02 June, 2003 (Fig. 1). This species was first described based on one male specimen from N. W. Fokien (=Fujian Province). It was successively found in Zhejiang (Longquan), Jiangxi (Mt. Jinggangshan), Guizhou (Leishan), and also Fujian (Chongan, Nanjing, Pucheng, Shaowu). All the localities are situated within 108° 10' N, 119° 10' E and 26° 20' N, 28° 10' N. The geographic position of Liujiang Town is between 29° 44' N and 103° 13' E. The discovery of *Pareas stanleyi* from Liujiang Town extends its range about 5 degrees westward and about 1.5 degrees northward. The distribution pattern of *Pareas stanleyi* is Southern China.

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An adult male. Head distinct from the neck, snout blunt, body somewhat compressed. Rostral high, visible from above of the head; internasals shorter than prefrontals; no preoculars; loreals large, its posterior end entering the eye; prefrontals extending laterally to the sides of the head, and touching the eye at its anterior upper corner; supraoculars small; postoculars narrower and in contact with the long narrower crescent subocular, which com-



Figure 1. *Pareas stanleyi* from Sichuan Province, China.

pletely encircling the posterior and inferior border of the eye; two anterior temporals, three posterior temporals; upper labials seven, excluded from orbit; mental very small; lower labials eight, anterior three or four in contact with the anterior chin-shield; the latter three pairs, no mental groove. Dorsal scales in fifteen rows throughout, three median rows feebly keeled at the neck region, seven median rows feebly keeled at the midbody, all but the outer one row keeled before the vent, vertebral row not enlarged; ventrals 153; anal entire; subcaudals in pairs, 54/54+1. The coloration of this specimen is identical with the original description by G. A. Boulenger (1914). The total length of the male Hongya specimen is 630.5 mm with a tail length of 110.5 mm. The tail is about 17.5% of the total length.

Twenty species belong to the genus *Pareas* Wagler, 1830 (Welch, 1988). It ranges over East Asia, Southeastern Asia, and South Asia (Bangladesh, Burma, China, India [Assam], Indonesia, Japan, Kampuchea, Laos, Malaysia, Sikkim, Thailand, and Vietnam). In China, nine species are recognized (Zhao et al., 1998). The authors of this paper believe that *Pareas macularius* Theobald, 1868 is a synonym of *P. margaritophorus* (Jan, 1866), *P. komaii* (Maki, 1931) is a synonym of *P. formosensis* (VanDenburgh, 1909), and *P. chinensis* (Barbour, 1912) may be a synonym of *P. hamptoni* (Boulenger, 1905). Thus, there are only seven species found in China, which may be distinguished by means of the following key:

Key to Chinese *Pareas*

- 1A Color purplish blue or purplish brown, with many black and white dorsal scales forming many short transverse bands *Pareas margaritophorus*
 1B Color dark or light brown, many dorsal scales with small black spots forming transverse line or reticulation 2

- 2A** No prefrontal.....*Pareas carinatus*
2B With prefrontal and entering the eye.....3
- 3A** No preocular, loreal entering the eye.....4
3B Preocular present, loreal not entering the eye (or only its tip entering the eye)6
- 4A** Dorsal scales smooth.....5
4B Dorsal scales keeled but the outer row smooth; back of head with big black blotch.....*Pareas stanleyi*
- 5A** Vertebral enlarged; the fourth upper labial entering the eye; ventrals more than 190; subcaudals more than 72; a black "X"-shaped mark behind the parietals.....*Pareas monticola*
5B Vertebral not enlarged; the fourth upper labial not entering the eye; ventrals less than 190; subcaudals less than 77*Pareas boulengeri*
- 6A** The second upper labial touching or not touching the crescent subocular, found only in Taiwan Province*Pareas formosensis*
6B The second upper labial not touching the crescent subocular, found in mainland*Pareas hamptoni*

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