

one of the lateral margins the threads are particularly numerous and extend to a great length, in some cases to about 180 mm., notwithstanding the fact that they are closely matted and twisted together.

Of the 9 eggs the measurements of the largest and of the smallest egg-capsule are as follows :—

	Largest egg-capsule.	Smallest egg-capsule.
Maximum length	78 mm.	70 mm.
Maximum breadth	36 mm.	32 mm.
Maximum thickness	21 mm.	18 mm.
Length of matted threads	180 mm.	

B. SUNDARA RAJ,  
*Govt. Mus., Madras.*

### REPTILES.

THREE RARE HIMALAYAN LIZARDS.—Thanks to the generosity of Col. Tytler, R.E., and Major F. Wall, I.M.S., the Indian Museum has recently received specimens of three rare lizards from the Western Himalayas. They are *Alsophylax himalayensis*, Annandale, *Gymnodactylus lawderanus*, Stoliczka and *Acanthosaura major* (Jerdon).

#### *Alsophylax himalayensis*.

Annandale, *Rec. Ind. Mus.* IX, p. 305, pl. xv, fig. 1, (1913).

This lizard was recently described by myself from a single female specimen taken in the Simla Hills at an altitude of about 5000 ft. Major Wall has still more recently sent us a male from Almorah, taken at about the same altitude. It is rather darker and greyer than the female and has the markings on the dorsal surface denser. The tail is more distinctly swollen and there is a prominent tubercle on its ventral surface at each side a little behind the vent. There is, however, no trace of praeanal pores—a feature that seems to differentiate the lizard from the male of any other species in the genus, from the general facies of which *A. himalayensis* is, indeed, somewhat divergent.

#### *Gymnodactylus lawderanus*.

Col. Tytler has just sent us a specimen of this rare gecko which he took in July at Konsanie in Kumaon at an altitude of 6000 ft. So far as published records go, this is only the second specimen known, but Major Wall informs me that he has recently presented one or more to the British Museum. Col. Tytler's specimen is unfortunately mutilated, but it retains the basal part of the tail, which was deformed in the type. In his key to the Indian species of the genus in the "Fauna" (p. 60) Dr. Boulenger, relying on the original description and figures, includes *G. lawderanus* among those species which do not possess a lateral fold, and states

that the tail is without tubercles. The type, which is in the Indian Museum, though generally in good condition so far as the body is concerned, is somewhat shrivelled and it is difficult to see whether the fold is altogether absent. In the fresh specimen it is clearly present. The tail, moreover, is partly surrounded by rings of small nail-like tubercles interrupted on the dorsal and ventral surfaces. Otherwise this specimen agrees with the type. The species is not related in any close degree to any other, but, despite its cylindrical tail, evidently comes nearest to *G. stoliczkai*, with which it was placed provisionally in my recent revision of the Indian representatives of the genus (*Rec. Ind. Mus.* IX, p. 316). The flattened tail of *G. stoliczkai* must, therefore, be regarded as no more than a specific character.

*Acanthosaura major*.

Boulenger, *Cat. Liz. Brit. Mus.*, I, p. 306, pl. xxiii, fig. 3. (1885).

The typical form of this species, which Dr. Boulenger has figured from the type, is a very different-looking lizard from the one I described some years ago (*Rec. Ind. Mus.*, I, p. 152; 1907) under the name *Acanthosaura kumaonensis*, but the difference lies solely in the smaller size, slighter build and rather longer tail of the latter. With both a male and a female of *A. major* before me—the female obtained at Tolpani in Garhwal by Col. Tytler (9000 ft.), the male by myself outside the town of Simla (*ca.* 8000 ft.)—I can find no structural difference between the two forms, except that the crest is higher in the typical male. This form reaches a length of nearly 25 cm., whereas adult males of the race or subspecies *kumaonensis*, as it may be called, are not longer than 18 cm., the females being rather shorter. The typical form is found in the Simla Hill States and Garhwal, probably at altitudes above 6000 ft., whereas the race *kumaonensis* occurs a little to the eastwards in Kumaon and in Garhwal at slightly lower altitudes. Probably the two races merge gradually the one into the other. The difference between them is similar in many respects to that between the Peninsular race (subsp. *gigas*, Blyth)<sup>1</sup> and the typical northern and eastern race of *Calotes versicolor*.

N. ANNANDALE.

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<sup>1</sup> Recent investigations show that this larger race, in which the secondary sexual characters of the male are very strongly developed, occupies the whole of Peninsular India south of the Indo-Gangetic plain and also Ceylon. To the north-west its range extends far beyond the Peninsular Area into Baluchistan. The typical form of the species occupies the foot-hills of the Himalayas, the Gangetic plain, Assam, Burma, Siam, the northern part of the Malay Peninsula, etc. Only adults of the two races can be distinguished satisfactorily.