

MISCELLANEA.

REPTILES.

NOTES ON THE DARJILING SKINK (*Lygosoma sikkimense*).—On several occasions during the "rains" I have found small lizard's eggs hidden in little pockets in the damp moss on tree-trunks near Kurseong, without being able to assign them to any species. There can now be no doubt that their parent is *Lygosoma sikkimense*. As most skinks are ovoviviparous, the fact is interesting. Two clutches of four eggs each were found at an altitude of 4,700 feet in the last week of June. Those of one were allowed to become dry, and shrivelled up. The embryos in them were in an early stage of development. The other clutch was brought alive to Calcutta and apparently lived for about a fortnight, without hatching. The eggs were dissected on July 12th and found to contain perfectly formed little lizards, dead but not decomposed. They had a stiff but not calcareous white shell and measured 10 mm. \times 6 mm., the ends being equally rounded. The young lizards had bright red tails and measured about 37 mm. when stretched out.

I may here state that I obtained last year a specimen of Stoliczka's "*Mococa sacra*," the type of which is in the collection of the Indian Museum, from the top of Paresnath Hill in Chota Nagpur. An examination of the two specimens, which must have been found in closely adjacent spots, shows beyond a doubt that the species they represent is identical with *Lygosoma sikkimense*, as Boulenger stated it to be. But I have been able to obtain no evidence of the occurrence of this lizard in any locality intermediate between the Himalayas and Paresnath, which is separated from them by the whole breadth of the Ganges valley but is the only mountain in Bengal proper that reaches an altitude of over 4,000 feet.

N. ANNANDALE,
Superintendent, Ind. Mus.

INSECTS.

COCKROACHES AS PREDATORY INSECTS.—As actual records of cockroaches acting as predatory insects appear to be rare, the following note has some biological interest. On the evening of June 9th, during a heavy downpour of rain, numerous termites flew into my dining room in Calcutta and were borne to the floor by the currents of air set up by the electric fan. As they lay struggling many of them fell a prey to a lizard (*Hemidactylus flaviviridis*), while others were devoured by cockroaches (*Periplaneta*

americana). Each cockroach stood over one of the termites with its legs spread out and firmly planted and, seizing the struggling insect in its jaws, began to gnaw the abdomen. If disturbed the cockroach carried the termite away in its mandibles, making no use of its legs in seizing, holding or carrying the prey. Sometimes the whole body except the wings was devoured, sometimes only the abdomen. The termite lived for a considerable time after being attacked.

N. ANNANDALE,
Superintendent, Ind. Mus.

NOTE ON *Ædeomyia squammipenna*,¹ ARRIBALZAGA.—At the latter part of December, 1909, I paid a visit to Bhogaon and Katihar in the Purneah District, N. Bengal, and while I was engaged in examining the trunks of old mango trees in quest of Ascalaphid larvæ, my attention was attracted by some small insects which took to flight on the tree trunks being touched. I could not at first discover what these insects were, as I could not notice anything moving about on the portion of the bark before me. After a closer examination I discovered that several specimens of the above species of mosquito were resting on the bark and as their colour so much resembled the dirty colour of the tree bark, it rendered it difficult to see them. Apparently they took shelter on these old trees as a kind of protection from any injury. I examined younger trees with the bark comparatively smooth, but failed to find any specimens.

Although these mango trees are quite close to a house I found no specimens in the house at Bhogaon, neither by day nor at night.

Mr. Theobald states that it inhabits houses and bites, but according to Dr. Lutz it has not been observed to sting in South America. I found 6 females and 8 males resting on mango tree trunks at Bhogaon and 4 males resting on a wall inside a house by day at Katihar. All these specimens agree with the specimens in the Indian Museum collection which have been examined by Mr. Theobald. They also agree with Theobald's description. This species has previously been recorded from British Guiana, Brazil, Argentine, Madras, and Perak (*Theobald*), and the Museum possesses two ♀ specimens, one from base of Dawna hills, Lower Burma, "taken in bungalow," 2-iii-08 (*Annandale*), and the other at light on board ship, 4 miles off Tuticorin, S. India, 25-v-08 (*C. Paiva*). This species appears to be rare in India.

C. PAIVA,
Assistant, Ind. Mus.

NAMED SPECIMENS OF CHRYSOMELIDÆ IN THE INDIAN MUSEUM.—By request of the Superintendent I have examined

¹ Theobald, *Monogr. Culicid.*, ii, p. 219 (1901).