Elaps Ezequiel and Rhinostoma himaculatum, new snakes from the State of Minas Geraes

by

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Amongst the snakes collected by the Bello Horizonte Branch of the Institute Oswaldo Cruz 4 new species were discovered by Dr. OSWALDO DE MELLO. Two of them were described in the Folha Medica of 1922 (n. 13, p. 97); the descriptions of the other two follows here.

Elaps Ezequielii n. sp.

The only specimen of this kind, apparently a female, was collected in Caxambú, in 1919. The place is in the State of Minas.

The species belongs to the third group, division B, subdivision c, of the key given by Boulenger in the Catalogue of Snakes of the British Museum. In general appearance it comes near Elaps Marc-gravii but has no anterior temporal, while the groups of rings are more numerous. There are three more species of Elaps since described by BOULENGER, viz: Rosenbergi (Ecuador), Simonsi (Argentina), omissus (Venezuela) and one by AMARAL, named Elaps Fischeri, from the Serra da Bocaina in the State of S. Paulo. (There are also some doubtful forms, mentioned in the Biologia Centra-li-Americana.) Of those, only Fischeri and Simonsi come near to Ezequielii, but differ by anatomical characters: the presence of an anterior temporal and the symphyseal reaching the anterior chinsheilds. The following description of the new species shows the other affinities and differences:

Description: Eye half as long as its distance from the mouth. Rostral deeper than broad, the part seen from above a little longer than half its distance from the frontal. Internasals shorter than broad, as long as the prefrontals. Frontal longer than broad, shorter than the parietals which are not as long as their distance from the end of the snout. One preocular, in contact with the posterior nasal; two postoculurs, the su-
perior somewhat larger. No anterior and one posterior temporal. 7 supralabials, the third and the fourth entering the eye, the former only in a point, the latter forming the whole of the lower margin; the sixth much larger than the others and reaching the parietal, the seventh well developed. Symphysial not reaching the anterior chin shields. 4 infralabials in contact with the anterior chin shields which are shorter than the posterior ones. 15 rows of scales. 226 ventral shields and 22 subcaudal on each side. Anal shield divided.

Body reddish, showing 15 sets of black rings, disposed in three. The middle ring is much wider and separated from the others by unspotted white rings. The red rings between the sets are dotted with black on the upper, unspotted on the under side. In the first group there are only two well developed black rings, the first one being reduced to a few black spots.

The fore part of the head is black above with a crescent shaped white band, concave anteriorly and covering the prefrontals, also on each side the posterior nasal and second supralabial. Above it passes on the anterior margin of the frontal and the posterior of the internasals, laterally on the front margin of the supraocular, the fore half of the preocular and the fore margin of the third supralabial. Behind, the upper side of the head is red, dotted with black spots, two larger ones situated on the apex of the parietals. Below the head is red, dotted with black, the symphysial and the first infralabials on each side entirely black. A narrow, unspotted, white ring separates the head from the body. Tail with black apex, the rest as on the body.

Total length 670, length of the tail 40 mm.

This species is dedicated to the memory of Dr. EZEQUIEL DIAS who founded and directed the Branch Institute in Bello Horizonte and established the prophylaxis of poisonous snakes and scorpions in the State of Minas.

**Rhinostoma bimaculatum n. sp.**

Maxillary teeth subequal, 10 + 2. Mandibular teeth subequal. Eye small. Pupil vertically elliptic. Snout short with parabolic anterior outline, slanting upwards. Inferior plane of rostral longer than the superior which shows a blunt keel. Internasals broader than long and shorter than the prefrontals. Frontal longer than broad, equal to the distance from the end of the snout and to the length of the parietals. No frenal. One precocular much shorter than the supraocular, which is very narrow and half as long as the frontal; 2 postoculares. Temporals 2 + 2. 8 supralabials, third, fourth and fifth entering the eye, second and third touching the prefrontal. Four lower labials in contact with anterior chin shields, which are equal in length to the posterior ones. Scales smooth, with apical pits, forming 19 longitudinal rows. Ventrais 164. Anal undivided. Subcaudals 40 on each side (the last ones not distinct). Tail tapering.

Body above reddish; just behind the neck, two spots of 5 mm. in width and 10 in length, consisting of 4–5 rows of blackish scales, separated by the median row. Scales of the back with apex infuscate. Belly, 3–4 rows of lateral scales and supralabials altogether white. Colouring of the tail equal to that of the body.

Total length 510, length of the tail 75 mm.

Collected in Pirapora, State of Minas Geraes, in the collection of the Branch Institute in Bello Horizonte.

This species is separated from *guianense* and *vittatum* by lacking a frenal. It stands near to *Iglesiasi* but differs by
Having 3 supralabials entering the eye and 2 anterior temporals.

Follows a list of the differential characters in the 4 species of the genus *Rhinostoma*.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Iglesiasi</th>
<th>Bimaculatum</th>
<th>Vittatum</th>
<th>Guianense</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rostral</td>
<td>no keel</td>
<td>keel present</td>
<td>keel present</td>
<td>present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frenal</td>
<td>none</td>
<td>none</td>
<td>present</td>
<td>present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporals</td>
<td>1+2</td>
<td>2+2</td>
<td>2+3</td>
<td>2+3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internasals</td>
<td>as long as broad</td>
<td>broader than long</td>
<td>longer than broad, as long as parietals</td>
<td>much smaller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frontal</td>
<td>as long as broad, shorter than parietals</td>
<td>longer than broad, as long as parietals</td>
<td>much smaller</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preocular</td>
<td>nearly equal to supraocular</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supralabials in contact with eye</td>
<td>4th, 5th</td>
<td>3d, 4th, 5th</td>
<td>4th, 5th</td>
<td>4th, 5th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head</td>
<td>with dark spots</td>
<td>no spots</td>
<td>199—226</td>
<td>168—209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ventral</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>160</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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Explanations of drawings:

Fig. 1-4—*Elaps Ezequielii.*
- Fig. 1—Dorsal view.
- Fig. 2—Lateral view.
- Fig. 3—Ventral view.

Fig. 4—Ventral view of tail.

Fig. 5-7—*Rhinostoma bimaculatum.*
- Fig. 5—Dorsal view.
- Fig. 6—Ventral view.
- Fig. 7—Lateral view.
BIBLIOGRAPHY.

1) BOULENGER, 1896— Catalogue of Snakes of the British Museum.


6) GUENTHER, 1902— Biologia Centrali Americana.

7) GOMES, FLORENCIO, 1915— Rhinostoma Iglesiasi, in Collectanea dos Trabalhos de Butantan de 1901—1917, p. 270.