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A NEW SNAKE OF THE GENUS *TYPHLOPS*
FROM THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

BY JAMES A. PETERS

A SINGLE specimen of the genus *Typhlops*, recently given to the Museum of Zoology by the collector, Clifford Berg, is quite distinct from all previously described forms of this genus. It gives me a great deal of pleasure to be able to name this form in honor of the generous collector.

Typhlops bergi, new species

(Pl. I, Figs. 1 and 2)

HOLOTYPE.—Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan, No. 95445; Segi Point, New Georgia Island, Solomon Islands; April, 1944; Clifford O. Berg, collector.

DIAGNOSIS.—This species of *Typhlops* is characterized by the regular arrangement of its head scales, and the presence of a large ocular, three supraoculars, two temporals, and a large, recognizable parietal. The color, as described below, is strikingly different from that of allied species.

DESCRIPTION OF TYPE.—Snout subacuminate; rostral longer than broad, extending two-thirds of distance from snout to eye; nostril lateral in an almost entirely divided nasal; nasal suture forked near rostral; nasals completely separated by rostral;

small pit present in nasal suture posterior to nostril, halfway between the nostril and the juncture of suture with the second upper labial; preocular in contact with second and third upper labials, extending deeply into nasal and separated from the ocular by a posterior preocular; ocular as large as plates surrounding it, eye scarcely visible; three supraoculars, the first touching corner of ocular, the second and third forming the upper border of ocular; one subocular; a horizontal row of scales (supralabials of Waite¹) above the upper labials and below the posterior preocular and subocular, two scales on the left side, the first bordering the third and fourth upper labials, the second bordering the fourth labial, three scales on the right side, second and third bordered by the fourth labial. Three distinct rows of head plates on dorsal surface of head posterior to rostral, consisting of anterior row, frontal and first supraoculars; middle row, postfrontal and second supraoculars; posterior row, parietal and third supraoculars. One postocular; two temporals; four upper labials, the fourth (largest) more than twice as long as broad.

Scales in twenty-six rows; each scale has a brown center, these spots are surrounded by light borders, thus, twenty-six rows of spots are clearly visible. The lighter area is narrow dorsally, with a large brown spot, the light area increases ventrally, and the ventral surface appears lighter, since the single scales are not as heavily pigmented with brown. The plates on the head are brown, some having the brown surrounded by a lighter area, which clearly outlines the plate, except on the anterior edge. The vent is bordered by a light area, the surrounding scales being without color. The tail ends in a spine.

There are 418 scales from the parietal to the tail spine, and twenty-two scales from the vent to the spine. Measurements are: snout to vent, 200 mm; largest diameter, 6 mm; tail, 8 mm.

¹“Description of a New Blind Snake from the Solomon Islands . . .,” *Rec. S. Australian Mus.*, 1, 1 (1918): 35-38.

REMARKS.—This species is similar to *T. infralabialis* Waite and *T. solomonis* Parker. It differs from both in all the characters given in the diagnosis, and, in addition, from *solomonis* in the presence of a single preocular (divided preocular in *solomonis*). It is sharply differentiated from the remaining forms of the Solomon Islands.

James A. Peters

PLATE I

Typhlops bergi, new species

FIG. 1. Holotype, from Segi Point, New Georgia, Solomon Islands,
U.M.M.Z. No. 95445. Dorsal view of head.

FIG. 2. The same. Lateral view of head.

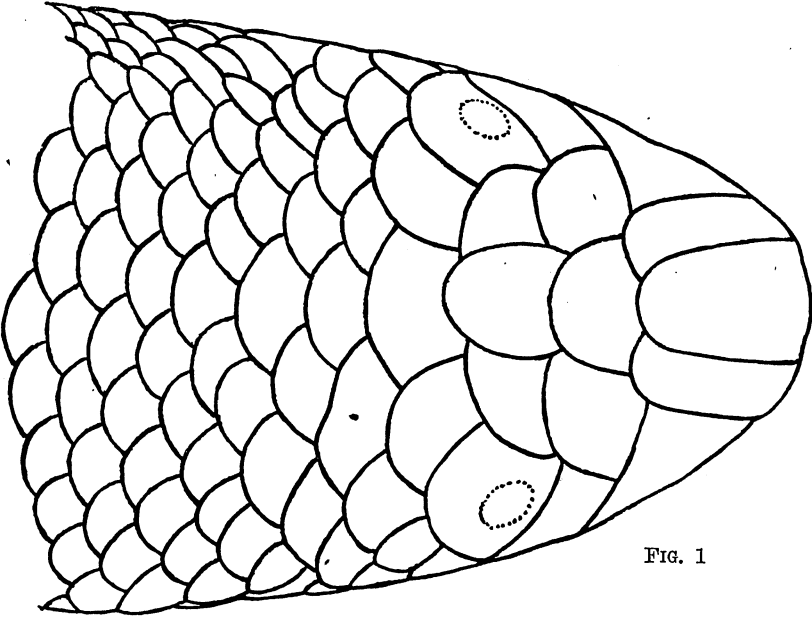


FIG. 1

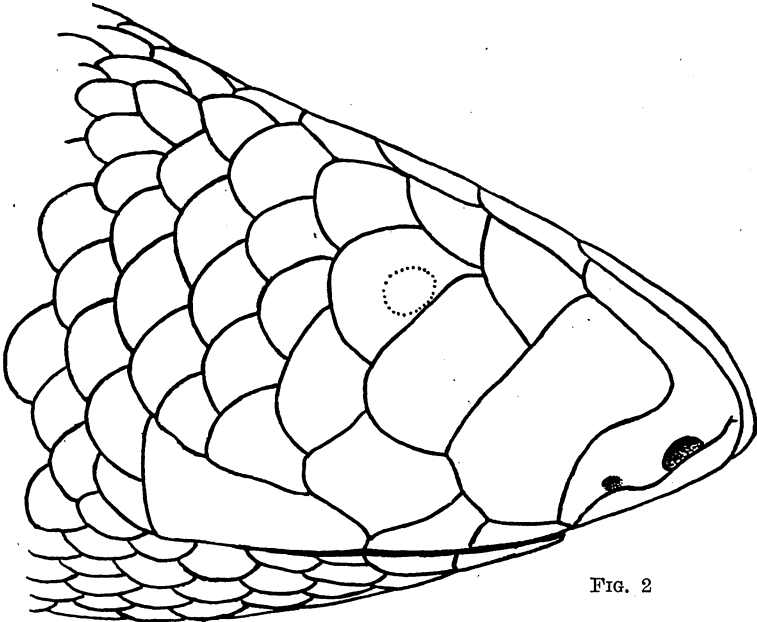


FIG. 2

