

ON THE NORTH AMERICAN LIZARDS OF THE GENUS *BARISSIA*
OF GRAY.

BY

LEONHARD STEJNEGER.

Curator of the Department of Reptiles and Batrachians.

Barissia imbricata (WIEGM.).

Since Professor Baird, in 1858, described his *Gerrhonotus olivaceus* very little has been done with a view to determine its relation to the other species of the genus. Cope (Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., No. 1, pp. 46, 90) recognizes it as a separate species peculiar to the Pacific region, and Yarrow (Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., No. 24, p. 46) and Garman (List. N. Am. Rept. and Batr., p. 13) follow his example, the former identifying two [or, correctly, three] specimens in the National Museum (No. 7087) from Mexico as this species, thus including the latter country within the range of the species. Boulenger (Cal. Liz. Brit. Mus., II, p. 273) includes it among the synonyms of *Gerrhonotus caeruleus*, though with a query, a most remarkable proceeding, since the original description of Professor Baird clearly indicates it as a member of the *Barissia* group, whether this name be taken in a generic sense, or not, as will be seen from the following quotation:

No single frontal [= "no azygos prefrontal"]. A series of three pairs of plates between the vertical [= "frontal"] and rostral * * * 39 transverse rows of scales on back from head to tail. 12 longitudinal rows above; the 6 central strongly carinated.

No mention is made of "projecting scales above the ear", a character which Professor Baird would most probably have noted had it occurred in his specimens. Applying this description to Boulenger's own synopsis of the species of the genus *Gerrhonotus* (*tom. cit.*, p. 267), it will be seen that it falls within the characters assigned to *G. imbricatus*. An examination of Baird's type also proves most conclusively that *G. olivaceus* is a synonym of *Barissia imbricata*.*

The specimens in hand, Professor Baird's types (U. S. Nat. Mus., No. 3096), and three from Orizaba, collected by Sumichrast (No. 7087) agree in every respect *inter se*, as well as with Wiegmann's, Bocourt's, and Boulenger's descriptions of the typical *G. imbricatus*. In the arrangement of the cephalic shields, in the carination and numbers of dorsal

*Garman in his "List" (*l. c.*) places *G. olivaceus* in the genus *Barissia*, retaining *imbricatus* in *Gerrhonotus*. I can see no good reason for this, inasmuch as the latter species seems to be the type of the genus *Barissia*.

rows, in proportions and coloration there seems to be no essential disagreement, in proof of which I have appended below a table of some of the characters which can be expressed in a statement of that kind.

The alleged locality of the types can hardly be accepted as an objection to this identification. In Yarrow's catalogue of the specimen's in the U. S. National Museum (Bull. No. 24, p. 46) the locality is given as "San Diego, Cal.," and Cope (*l. cc.*) also attributes *B. olivacea* to southern California. I doubt very much the correctness of this for various reasons. In the first place the locality given in the original description is only "near San Diego," and this is also the way it is written in the Museum record-book, and I think it is impossible to say with certainty now whether this San Diego is the city located in southern California or one of the several other places of the same name in the neighborhood of which the gentlemen connected with the U. S. and Mexican Boundary Commission collected specimens for the Smithsonian Institution. It is true that "Cal." is interpolated after San Diego in the report of the Boundary Survey, but that may have been nothing more than an "editorial" correction made without consulting the records. Even if "San Diego, Cal." had been intended originally, it does not follow that the specimens were collected *very* "near" that place. The locality of *G. webbia* described only a few lines above *G. olivaceus* is also given as "near San Diego, Cal.," but if we turn to the original record in the Museum register we will find that No. 3078 was collected "From San Diego to El Paso," a distance of more than six hundred miles, as the crow flies.

Specimens examined.

United States National Museum No.	Locality.	Collector.					Snout to vent.	Snout to ear.	Snout to fore limb.	Axil to groin.	Fore limb.	Hind limb.
			Nuchal scales, longitudinal rows.	Dorsal scales, longitudinal rows.	Dorsal scales, transverse rows.	Ventral scales, longitudinal rows.						
3096 <i>a</i>	"Near San Diego."	A. Schott . . .	8	14	40	12	mm. 100	mm. 21	mm. 35	mm. 57	mm. 25	mm. 32
3096 <i>b</i>	do	do	8	14	38	12	80	17	27	43	20	25
7087 <i>a</i>	Orizaba, Mex.	Sumichrast . . .	8	14	39	12	112	27	37	63	28	33
7087 <i>b</i>	do	do	8	14	39	12	93	22	32	50	24	33
7087 <i>c</i> (<i>juv.</i>)	do	do	8	14	41	12	45	11	16	24	12	15

Barissia levicollis, sp. nov.

DIAGNOSIS.—No azygos prefrontal; three pairs of shields between the frontal and the rostral; prefrontals not in contact with loreal; no projecting scales above the ear; one large upper postorbital and two minute lower ones; forty-six transverse rows of dorsal scales between the head and the base of the tail, and sixteen longitudinal rows; head shields swollen.

HAB.—"Mexican boundary."

Type.—U. S. Nat. Mus., No. 9362.

Description of type specimen.—Head narrow, snout long, pointed; head shields swollen; two pairs of internasals, the posterior in contact with anterior supraocular; one pair of prefrontals; nasal separated from rostral; a supranasal; a postnasal; a loreal, pentagonal, not higher than wide, and separated from prefrontals; a preorbital; two suborbitals, the posterior very long; one very large upper postorbital and two minute lower ones; ten and twelve supralabials; sides of neck covered with granular scales; lateral fold, commencing below the ear opening; nuchal scales not keeled, in ten longitudinal rows; dorsal scales of medium size, in sixteen longitudinal rows, the four median obtusely keeled, the next two on each side with the keels still less pronounced and the remainder smooth; forty-six transverse dorsal rows; ventrals smaller than dorsals, in twelve longitudinal rows; [tail reproduced].

Color (in alcohol) above uniform "tawny-olive" with interrupted transverse bands of black dots on the sides, the scales with the dots being margined posteriorly, more or less distinctly, with whitish; under side dull pale clay-color, with irregular black dots on flanks and throat.

Dimensions of type.

	Millimeters.
From snout to vent.....	121
From snout to ear opening.....	27
From snout to fore limb.....	38
From axilla to groin.....	67
Greatest width of head.....	18
Fore limb.....	27
Hind limb.....	34

Unfortunately, the exact locality where the type of this species was collected is not known; all that the record book contains is "Mexican Boundary." It was evidently obtained by one of the surveying parties of the United States and Mexican Boundary, but the original number having become obliterated, it was re-entered in 1877 and the original label—or what remained of it—destroyed.

The present species belongs to the same group as the foregoing, having "three pairs of shields between the frontal and the rostral," or in other words, "two pairs of internasal scuta." It differs from *B. imbricata*, however, in the greater number of dorsal rows, both longitudinal and transverse; in the obsolete carination of the dorsal scales; in the exclusion of the loreal from the prefrontals; in the smaller size and greater number of the temporals, and in the narrower and more elongated shape of the head. It has the sixteen longitudinal rows of dorsals in common with *B. planifrons* BOCOURT, but the head shields are swollen and the other characters which separate it from *B. imbricata* also distinguish it from *B. planifrons*. *B. rudicollis* is still farther removed by the low number of the transverse dorsal rows, the strong carination of the nuchal shields, and the contact of the nasal with the rostral.