

A NEW SYSTEMATIC NAME FOR THE YELLOW BOA OF JAMAICA.

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The yellow boa found in Jamaica is generally known as *Chilabothrus inornatus*, or *Epicrates inornatus*. The specific name, however, was given by the elder Reinhardt to the boa inhabiting Porto Rico, and as a direct comparison between a number of specimens from both islands has convinced me that they are specifically distinct, I am constrained to give the Jamaican boa a new name.

EPICRATES SUBFLAVUS, new species.

Diagnosis.—Scales 39–45 around the body; ventrals 274–286; no labial pits; a single frontal between supraoculars, which are nearly as large as frontal; prefrontals broadly in contact with preocular; color pale yellowish, with numerous blackish dorsal and lateral cross bars in zigzag, anteriorly quite broken and obscure, posteriorly strongly marked and extended so as to make the ground color appear blackish.

Type.—No. 14507, U.S.N.M.

Habitat.—Jamaica.

In the exclusion of the preocular from contact with the prefrontals by one or more smaller shields the Porto Rican boa differs constantly from the Jamaican species. The coloration is also quite different, and there are numerous other characters in the scutellation the constancy of which can only be demonstrated by a larger material than I have access to at present. The division of the nasal does not offer a good character, though in the Porto Rican form it appears to be oftener undivided than in Jamaican specimens, but the size and arrangement of the parietals seem to be fairly diagnostic, since in all the specimens and accurate figures of Jamaican specimens examined by me there are

two pairs of regular parietals of subequal size, the one immediately behind the supraocular frequently being even larger than the median pair, while in the true *E. inornatus* from Porto Rico the median pair, if not entirely split up into small shields, is much larger than the one on each side behind the supraoculars.

There is also a slight, though apparently constant, difference in the number of ventrals, since in eight Jamaican specimens of *E. subflavus* I count, or find recorded, 274 to 286 ventrals, while the corresponding figures in eleven Porto Rican *E. inornatus* are 261 to 271.