

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW AMPHISBÆNOID LIZARD FROM PERU.

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Mr. C. H. T. Townsend has recently presented to the U. S. National Museum a specimen of *Amphisbæna*, which he suspected to be undescribed. Upon examination I find that his suspicion was well founded, and I therefore take great pleasure in naming it for him. It was found near his house in Piura, northwestern Peru.

AMPHISBÆNA TOWNSENDI, new species.

Diagnosis.—Nasals forming a suture on the snout; 4 preanal pores; 2 prefrontals, distinct from nasals and labials; suture between nasals about one-half that between prefrontals; temporals small; ocular in contact with second and third upper labials; no lateral line; 44 segments in a ring on the middle of the body; 276 rings on the body.

Habitat.—Peru.

Type.—Cat. No. 47087, U.S.N.M.; Piura, Peru, March 14, 1911; C. H. T. Townsend, collector.

Description of type specimen.—Rostral small, the portion visible from above very short; nasals forming a suture, about one-half as long as that between the prefrontals, slightly shorter than the suture between the frontals; prefrontals large, the suture between them much longer than that between the frontals; frontals moderate, about half the size of the prefrontals; ocular moderate, about the same size as the third supralabial; 2 postoculars; temporals small; no occipitals; 3 supralabials of equal length, second and third in contact with ocular; mental followed by a small median postmental; behind the second lower labial a medium-sized malar shield; behind the postmental and between the malars, 3 transverse rows of scales, consisting, respectively, of 4, 5, and 6 scales; 276 rings on the body, 25 on the tail; 44 segments in a ring around the body, the segments longer than broad and slightly narrower on back than on abdomen; no trace of a lateral line; anal shields, 6; preanal pores, 4. Color

(in alcohol) above, dark purplish brown, the color of the back descending on the sides as irregular scattered spots; sides and underside pale. According to Mr. Townsend's note the living specimen had a distinct lavender pink tinge on forward half, especially about head.

Dimensions.

	<i>mm.</i>
Tip of snout to vent.....	206
Tail.....	21
Diameter of body.....	5

Remarks.—Cope, in 1875,¹ described an *Amphisbæna occidentalis* collected by Prof. James Orton in the valley of Jequetepeque, Peru, but as he neither gave the number of body rings nor of segments contained in a ring nor stated whether a lateral line was present or not, the status of this name has always been dubious. Thinking that it might possibly be the species described in the present paper, I asked Mr. Witmer Stone to furnish the missing data from the type in the Philadelphia Academy. This he has very kindly done. He found 179 rings from corner of mouth to anus and 20 from anus to tip of tail, a ring on the middle of the body containing 45 segments, 19 above the lateral lines and 26 below. It is consequently evident that Townsend's *Amphisbæna* is a totally different animal. *A. occidentalis*, on the other hand, appears to represent the form which Doctor Peracca has indicated as intermediate between *A. darwinii* and *A. camura* having from 44 to 60 segments in a body ring, while the former has 28 to 40 and the latter 74 to 84 such rings.²

¹ Journ. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia, (2) vol. 8, p. 176.

² Peracca, Bol^{l.} Mus. Zool. Torino, vol. 10, no. 195, Feb. 6, 1895, p. 10.