

# A NEW CALAMARINE SNAKE FROM THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

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Dr. E. A. Mearns, U. S. A., has recently forwarded to the National Museum a single specimen of a *Calamaria* which appears to be undescribed. It is in very bad condition, but the characters are so well differentiated and so unmistakable that I do not hesitate to describe it.

## **CALAMARIA MEARNSI**, new species

*Diagnosis*.—Ventrals about 250; a distinct postocular; diameter of eye less than half its distance from the mouth; 5 upper labials; frontal slightly longer than broad, more than twice as wide as supraocular, shorter than parietals; mental separated from chin-shields by first pair of lower labials.

*Habitat*.—Mindanao, Philippine Islands.

*Type*.—Cat. No. 36991, U. S. N. M.; Tangob, N. Mindanao, June 10, 1906; Dr. E. A. Mearns, collector.

*Description of type specimen*.—Rostral well visible from above; frontal slightly longer than broad, more than twice as broad as supraoculars, shorter than parietals; one preocular; one postocular; diameter of eye less than half its distance from the labial edge (commissure); five supralabials, third and fourth entering eye; two pairs of chin-shields in contact with each other; mental separated from chin-shields by first pair of lower labials; scales in 13 rows; ventrals, 251; anal entire; subcaudals, 12 pairs; tip of tail rounded. Color (in alcohol), dark brown above, each of the two outer scale rows broadly tipped with pale yellowish; parietals and prefrontals with pale yellowish markings; a pale yellowish collar, about two scales wide, seven scale rows behind the head; a pair of large pale spots on sides at base of tail; tip of tail pale except the extreme point, which is dark; underside uniform pale with ends of ventrals like back; a dark brown line along middle of underside of tail.

*Dimensions*.—Total length, 270 mm.; tail, 8 mm.

*Remarks.*—This species is apparently most closely allied to *Calamaria everetti* and the *C. pavimentata* group, but differs from the latter in the number of supralabials and from both in the much smaller eyes. The large number of ventrals distinguishes it at once not only from these Calamarians but from all the other species known from the Philippines, and in fact from most of the species of the genus. *C. gracillima*, from Borneo, exceeds it in having 300 and more ventrals, but it lacks preocular and has no distinct postocular. *C. collaris*, from Celebes, has from 232 to 265 ventrals, but has a much larger eye and a very different style of coloration. In the latter respect *C. mearnsi* agrees essentially with the *C. pavimentata* group.