

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

GENERAL NOTES.

Note on the name *Rhopocichla*.

Rhopocichla was first used by Oates in 1889 (Fauna Brit. India, Birds, I, 159) for an Indian Timeline bird. Two years later Dr. Allen employed the same term (Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., III, 199, 1891) for a South American Ant Thrush. As the use of the same name in two families of birds is liable to lead to some confusion it is proposed to replace Dr. Allen's *Rhopocichla* by *Rhopornis* (type *Myiothera ardesiaca* Wied).—Charles W. Richmond.

**The technical names of two Dogbanes from the
District of Columbia.**

In his recently published Manual of the Flora of the Northern States and Canada, Dr. N. L. Britton transfers the name *Apocynum medium* Greene to the Dogbane which, in my paper on the species occurring in the District of Columbia,* I described as *A. speciosum*. For the *Apocynum medium* as there defined, he proposes the new name *A. milleri*. Beyond the brief citation of synonyms no reason is given for these alterations; and after a careful examination of the facts I am forced to regard the change as quite unwarranted.

At the time of my revision of the species Professor Greene informed me that he had based the name *medium* on a plant growing at a well-known locality in Brookland, D. C. At this station there is found only one species of *Apocynum*, living and fresh specimens of which furnished the material for my description. Since the publication of Doctor

*Proc. Biol. Soc., Washington, XIII, pp. 79-90, September 28, 1899.

Britton's 'Manual' I have examined, in company with Mr. Chas. L. Pollard, the specimen in Professor Greene's herbarium stated by him to be the type of *Apocynum medium*. It agrees in all respects with the plant to which I applied the name, and in no way suggests *A. speciosum*. The name *milleri* Britton is therefore a synonym of *medium* Greene. The two species in question should stand as follows:

APOCYNUM MEDIUM Greene.

1897. *Apocynum medium* Greene, Pittonia, III, p. 229, December, 1897.

1899. *Apocynum medium* Miller, Proc. Biol. Soc., Washington, XIII, p. 84, September 28, 1899.

1901. *Apocynum milleri* Britton, Manual Flora Northern States and Canada, p. 739, November, 1901.

APOCYNUM SPECIOSUM Miller.

1899. *Apocynum speciosum* Miller, Proc. Biol. Soc., Washington, XIII, p. 83, September 28, 1899.

1901. *Apocynum medium* Britton, Manual Flora Northern States and Canada, p. 739, November, 1901.

—Gerrit S. Miller, Jr.

A fully adult specimen of *Ophibolus rhombomaculatus*.

On October 16, 1901, I obtained a fully adult *Ophibolus rhombomaculatus*, apparently the first to be recorded. The snake was found freshly killed in a farm road a few miles west of Alexandria, Va. It is 1090 mm. in length (of which the tail forms 145 mm.), and in color differs so widely from the bright, handsomely spotted immature specimens hitherto known that its identity was not at first suspected. General color above a uniform brown, between the olive and bistre of Ridgway, faintly lightened by the irregular appearance at the surface of the color between the scales. Two dark longitudinal stripes on each side, the first on the fourth row of scales (spreading to third and fifth) the second on the eighth row (spreading to seventh and ninth); these stripes continuous from slightly behind head to base of tail. In color they are so faintly darker than the surrounding parts that in certain lights they are quite invisible. They are, nevertheless, sufficiently distinct to cause a strong resemblance to the color pattern of *Coluber quadrivittatus*. Belly olive yellow with the usual dusky blotches. The olive yellow extends over the back on the skin between the scales. Lips and entire space between rami pearly gray, thickly sprinkled with brown dots. At first sight the back appears to be quite unmarked, except for the longitudinal stripes, but on close inspection in a very favorable light faint traces of the rhombic spots may be detected, particularly on the tail and posterior half of body.—Gerrit S. Miller, Jr.