

CATALOGUE
OF THE
L I Z A R D S

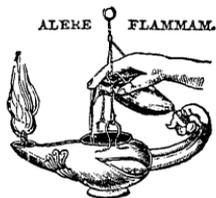
IN THE
BRITISH MUSEUM
(NATURAL HISTORY).

SECOND EDITION.

BY
GEORGE ALBERT BOULENGER.

VOLUME I.
GECKONIDÆ, EUBLEPHARIDÆ, UROPLATIDÆ
PYGOPODIDÆ, AGAMIDÆ.

LONDON:
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P R E F A C E.



No other order of Reptiles required so thorough an examination and rearrangement as that of Lizards. The descriptions of nearly two thirds of the species known at present were scattered over the wide range of the literature of the last forty years, and, in consequence, except to some very few zoologists, the exact determination of specimens of Lizards had become an impossible task, or, at least, one to which a great risk of failure was attached. By the student of physiogeography the absence of a critical general account of so important a type of Reptiles was still more seriously felt.

The first edition of the 'Catalogue of Lizards,' published in the year 1845, was based on a collection containing only one eighth of the number of specimens at present in the Natural History Museum, and, therefore, had long ceased to fulfil its primary purpose, viz. to serve as a guide to the collection.

Like all the other volumes of the new series of descriptive Catalogues of the Zoological Collections, the present work contains descriptions of, or references to, all the species introduced into the literature. It will consist of three volumes, and may be expected to be completed in 1886, the manuscript of the second volume being far advanced.

ALBERT GÜNTHER,

Keeper of the Department of Zoology.

British Museum, N. H.,

January 8, 1885.

INTRODUCTION.

THIS volume contains an account of all the species of Lizards belonging to the families *Geckonidæ*, *Eublepharidæ*, *Uroplatidæ*, *Pygopodidæ*, and *Agamidæ*, of which descriptions have been published. Over three fourths of the species described have been examined by myself.

The following Table will show the great progress made in our knowledge of species since the publication of the last general works on the subject, viz. Duméril and Bibron's 'Erpétologie Générale,' vols. iii.-v., 1836-1839, and Gray's first edition of this Catalogue in 1845:—

	Number of Species characterized		
Families.	by Dum. & Bibr.	by Gray.	in present volume*.
Geckonidæ	53	97	270
Eublepharidæ	—	1	7
Uroplatidæ	2	2	3
Pygopodidæ	2	7	8
Agamidæ	50	79	202
Total..	107	186	490.

A comparison of the numbers of species and specimens in the National Collection in 1845 and at the present date gives the following result:—

* Only those species to which I have appended an ordinal number are included in this estimate, without those which are doubtful and merely referred to in footnotes or otherwise.

INTRODUCTION.

	1845.		1885.	
	Species.	Specimens.	Species.	Specimens.
Geckonidæ	78	166	199	1773
Eublepharidæ	1	1	6	19
Uroplatidæ	1	2	1	5
Pygopodidæ	7	20	5	93
Agamidæ	65	239	159	1265
Total..	152	428	370	3155

An outline of the classification followed in this work I have recently published in *Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist.* xiv. 1884, p. 117.

I have given the principal measurements of most of the species, taken from the largest or most perfect specimen in the collection. The "length of the head" is measured to the occipital condyle, and the "length of the body" signifies the distance between the latter point and the anal cleft.

The affixes to the names of donors &c., in the third column of the list of specimens, may be explained as follows:—" [P.]" signifies "Presented by;" "[C.]"="Collected by;" "[E.]"="Obtained by exchange." Where none of these signs are employed, the specimens were purchased.

G. A. BOULENGER.

British Museum, N. H.,
January 8, 1885.