

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

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DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SNAPPING TURTLE AND A  
NEW LIZARD FROM FLORIDA.

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Mr. Nelson R. Wood, the well-known bird taxidermist of the U. S. National Museum, has collected a number of interesting reptiles from time to time on and near his farm at Auburndale, Polk County, Florida. On account of the freshness of the material which was received either alive or quite recently preserved, it has been possible to recognize distinctions from previously described forms, which were not obvious in the older specimens from Florida in the collection of the Museum.

***Chelydra osceola*, sp. nov.**

*Diagnosis*.—Similar to *Chelydra serpentina*, but central laminae of carapace relatively much wider, width of third central being one-third the length of the five centrals together, or more; knobs of dorsal keels located nearer center of laminae; four small chin barbels.

*Range*.—Pinellas, Osceola, Brevard and Polk Counties, Florida.

*Type*.—U. S. National Museum, No. 10369; Clearwater, Pinellas County, Florida, September, 1879; S. T. Walker, collector.

*Remarks*.—Seven Florida specimens of different sizes (length of carapace from 123 to 305 mm.) are easily differentiated from typical *Chelydra serpentina*, as represented in the National Museum by a large series of specimens from all over its range on the mainland of North America, by the characters mentioned in the diagnosis. Of these the first one, viz., the excessive width of the central laminae may be the persistence of a juvenile character and may therefore be less perceptible in young specimens. The more anterior location of the dorsal keel knobs which is so noticeable on all the laminae, but more particularly on the fifth central, on which the knob rises nearly in the middle, is not a juvenile character, however, for in all the mainland specimens examined by me, the oldest

as well as the youngest, the knob is placed very close to the posterior seam, and age appears to make no difference.

In all the Florida specimens I find two pairs of chin barbels. In most mainland specimens from the United States only the anterior pair is developed, though in some there are indications of a posterior pair.

The caudal crests of compressed tubercles appear also to be diagnostic of the two forms, in as much as the tubercles of the median series are smaller and those of the lateral series larger as compared with the corresponding series in *Chelydra serpentina*, in which the contrast between the two series is thus much greater.

In the series before me there are indications of several equally important distinctive characters, but they must await confirmation by the accumulation of a more extensive material.

The dimensions in millimeters, of the type specimen, which is a male, are as follows: Total length of carapace, 231; width of carapace, 187; depth of body, 98; length of plastron, 157; width of head, 57; width of bridge, 13.

#### **Sceloporus woodi**, sp. nov.

*Diagnosis*.—Lateral scales directed obliquely upwards and backwards, and passing gradually into the dorsals; series of femoral pores widely separated, not meeting on the preanal region; tail cylindrical; head-shields smooth; distance between base of fifth toe and extremity of fourth greatly exceeding distance between end of snout and posterior border of ear, equalling that between nostril and arm; about 42 keeled and mucronate scales between interparietal shield and base of tail, about 11 corresponding to length of shielded part of head; 15–20 femoral pores; size small.

*Range*.—Central and East Central Florida.

*Type*.—United States National Museum, No. 48720; Auburndale, Polk County, Florida; Nelson R. Wood, collector.

*Description*.—Type: Adult male. Head-shields smooth; two canthal scales between the posterior of which three larger prefrontal shields across the snout; frontal shield divided transversely; posterior frontal in contact with interparietal; interparietal very large, as broad as long; parietals small, roughly equilaterally triangular; six transverse supraorbitals, first and sixth smallest, third much larger than the others; large supraoculars separated from frontals and anterior fronto-parietals by a semicircular series of small scales, which is slightly interrupted at the third and fourth (abnormally in this individual), and from superciliaries anteriorly by a double row and posteriorly by a single row of small scales; six supra-labials, first and fifth separated from nasal and long subocular respectively by a single scale; fifth supralabial under center of eye; anterior border of ear-opening protected by three projecting, pointed scales, the two upper ones quite large; dorsal scales larger than ventrals, sharply keeled and mucronate, with a distinct notch on each side of point, in parallel series; about 42 scales along middle line of back from shielded part of head to base of tail; 12 scales in middle of back corresponding to

shielded part of head; lateral scales directed upwards and backwards, slightly smaller than dorsals; ventral scales smooth, notched behind; scales on throat and foreneck slightly smaller than ventrals, those on side of latter mucronate and notched; adpressed hind limb reaches center of eye; tibia equals shielded part of head; distance between base of fifth toe and extremity of fourth, without claw, nearly equals distance between nostril and arm; 17-18 femoral pores; caudal scales not much larger than dorsals; two enlarged postanal scales.

Color (in alcohol) above olive gray, slightly paler towards the sides, with two series of oblique, nearly linear, blackish spots equidistant from each other and from a strongly defined, broad, seal-brown lateral band which extends from middle of neck to base of tail; on top and sides of head some indistinct, narrow blackish lines; on sides of body below the dark band an indistinct pale band, below which an equally indistinct dusky band between axilla and groin; underside of body pale greenish white, on each side with a black-edged cobalt-blue patch; throat and foreneck black with a narrow whitish line down the middle, and a cobalt-blue patch on each side.

*Dimensions*.—Total length, 108 mm.; tip of snout to vent, 43 mm.; tip of snout to ear, 11 mm.; shielded part of head, 11 mm.; fourth toe, without claw, from base of fifth, 15 mm.; nostril to arm, 15.5 mm.; tibia, 11 mm.

*Variation*.—As usual in this genus, there is considerable variation in the head-shields. In some specimens the frontal is undivided and in others the anterior fronto-parietals are fused, thus separating frontal from interparietal. The type is apparently abnormal in having the large third supraocular in contact with the anterior fronto-parietal, as the semicircular series of scales in the other specimens is uninterrupted.

The full-grown female appears to be somewhat larger and stouter than the male, though the relative length of the fourth toe remains the same. Thus in an adult female from Georgiana, Fla., U. S. Nat. Mus. No. 11997, measuring 55 mm. from snout to vent, the length from snout to ear is 12, and from base of fifth toe to tip of fourth toe, without claw, 19 mm.

The coloration varies to some extent but not excessively so. The lateral stripes are often more conspicuous and better defined than in the type. The dorsal spots may be entirely absent, but in females and young they are often better developed and in the latter showing the regular pattern of blackish, interrupted and more or less zigzaggy cross-bars bordered with whitish behind. In the female and young the blue throat patches are present. In most of the adult males the median white line on the throat is broader and more conspicuous than in the type; in others it is entirely obliterated.

*Remarks*.—The above diagnosis, as will be noticed, if applied to Boulenger's synopsis of the species (Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1897, p. 475) leads directly to his *Sceloporus serrifer* (Cat. Liz. Brit. Mus., vol. 2, 1885, p. 221). I say purposely "his" *S. serrifer*, because the characters given,

derived from a single specimen in British Museum, do not refer to Cope's species *Sceloporus serrifer* (Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci., Philadelphia, 1866, p. 124) the type of which, U. S. Nat. Mus. No. 24868, collected in Yucatan by A. Schott, is now before me. This latter is a large, stout lizard with short fourth toe belonging to the *S. torquatus* group as defined by Boulenger, and is consequently very different from the British Museum specimen. Moreover, it has the fourth supraocular in contact with the parietal shield, like *S. melanorhinus*, with the description of which it agrees in most respects, except that it has only 9-10 femoral pores as against 19-21 in the latter. Further details of the type of *S. serrifer* may be recorded as follows: Length from snout to vent, 98 mm.; length of shielded part of head, 20 mm.; length from snout to ear-opening, 23 mm.; length of tibia, 21 mm.; fourth toe, without claw, from base of fifth, 23 mm.; number of scales from occiput to base of tail, 26; dorsal scales corresponding to length of shielded part of head, 5; scales around middle of body, 34. The specimen in British Museum, collected by Sallé in Mexico, from which Boulenger derived the characters in the synopsis and which he described in considerable detail in his Catalogue (ll. cc.) is quite a distinct species, as correctly suspected by him, characterized by an exceedingly long hind toe like *S. woodi*. As Dr. A. Guenther was the first to express doubts about its being identical with *S. serrifer* of Cope it may be properly known as *Sceloporus guentheri*.

The Florida species here described has nothing to do with either of the above species being one of the smallest of the genus, although it shares with *S. guentheri* the excessively lengthened fourth toe, a character apparently unique among the North American species.

There are, consequently, three distinct species in Florida, viz., *Sceloporus spinosus floridanus* (Baird) which occurs in the extreme north-western part of the State; *Sceloporus undulatus* (Latreille) of which the National Museum has specimens from northern, north-central and western counties as far south as Pinellas County; and *Sceloporus woodi*, the species here described from Polk County. The National Museum has also a good series from Georgiana, Brevard County, collected many years ago by Mr. William Wittfield.

I have named this interesting novelty for Mr. Nelson R. Wood in recognition of his valuable contributions to the herpetological collections of the National Museum.