

ALECTO.

Coluber Alecto. *C. albidus, dorso maculis reticulatis rhombeatis fuscis, capite cordato ferrugineo, stria laterali nigra.*

Whitish Snake, with reticular rhomboid brown spots along the back, and cordated ferruginous head with a black lateral stripe.

Coluber Ceilonicus, longissimus, perniciosus, torvus Ammodytes dictus. *Seb. 2. p. 79. t. 76. f. 1.*

A LARGE snake: length about five feet and a half: habit rather slender than thick: head very large, flattish, cordated at the back part, of a pale ferruginous colour speckled with black, and marked on each side by a descending black streak from the eye to the hind-head: remainder of the animal very pale or whitish grey, marked throughout the whole length of the back by a series of large, transverse, rhomboid, reticular patches of brown, the points of which descend on the sides so as almost to reach the abdominal scuta: tail rather short, gradually tapering, and terminating in a horny pointed extremity. Native of Ceylon: said to be a poisonous species.

VAR. ?

SEBA figures a much smaller snake, of about three feet long, white, with a tinge of blossom-colour, and marked above as in the former, of which it may, perhaps, be a younger specimen; the differences being not so great as entirely to

forbid this supposition. It is said to be a native of Africa. See Seb. 2. pl. 82. f. 2.

TISIPHONE.

Coluber Tisiphone. *C. fuscus immaculatus, corpore crasso.*

Brown thick-bodied Snake, without any variegations.

Brown Viper. *Catesb. Carol. 2. pl. 45.*

THIS, says Catesby, is of the size of the Black Viper (American), measuring about two feet in length, and large in proportion: it is also a very slow-moving and sluggish reptile, advancing deliberately, even to escape danger: yet will defend itself with much fierceness when attacked, and its bite is said to be as venomous as any: it retains its brown colour, in all stages of life: it is found in Virginia, and Carolina, in the last of which it is called the Truncheon Snake: it preys on Lizards and other animals.

MEGAERA.

Coluber Megæra. *C. fuscus, flavo variatus, capite cordato depresso, foramine utrinque magno inter oculos & nares.*

Brown Snake, with yellow variegations, flat cordate head, and a large orifice on each side between the eyes and nostrils.

La Vipere Fer-de-Lance. *Cepede Serp. p. 121. pl. 5.*

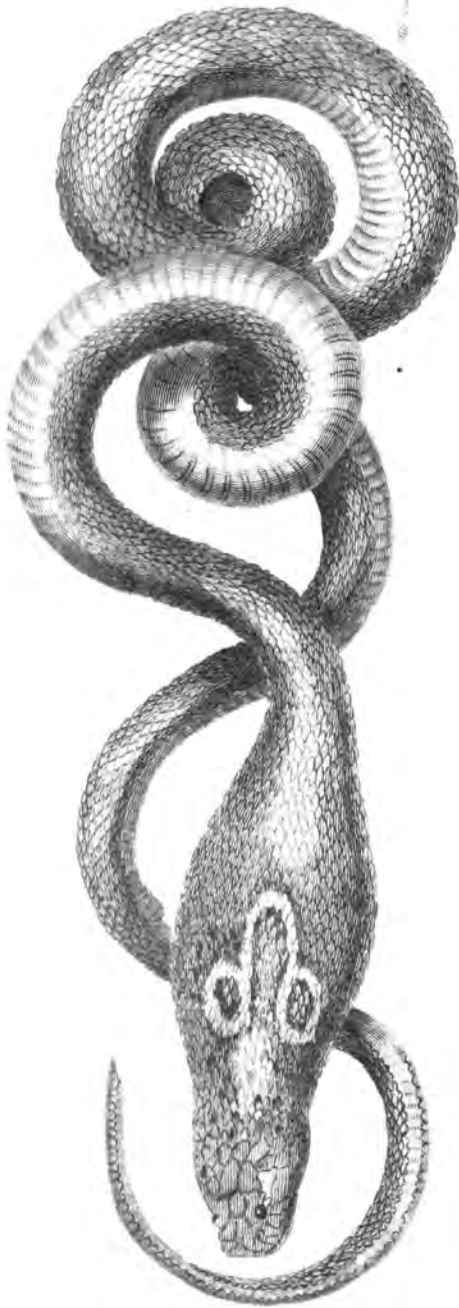
Abdominal scuta 224, subcaudal squamæ 68.

THIS is a large species, measuring, when full-grown, five or six feet, or even more, in length.

It is a native of the island of Martinico, and some of the neighbouring islands, and may justly be considered as one of the most formidable of the Transatlantic Serpents. The Count de Cepede very properly observes, that the name of Yellow Martinico Snake, by which it is generally called in the works of voyagers, is highly improper, since yellow is often not the predominating colour: that of a fine specimen in the British Museum is a rich deep brown, with yellow variegations; the back being marked throughout the whole length of the animal by pretty numerous, equidistant, broken, and slightly alternating bars of dull yellow, which, descending and joining at intervals with the neighbouring ones, form obscurely annular and somewhat irregular markings of similar colour along the sides, with still more obscure crossings on the part nearest the scuta, intermixed with smaller patches and spots: the abdomen is dull yellow, clouded and speckled on the sides with pale brown: the head is large, flat, cordate, and covered with very small carinated scales; but the terminal scale of the nose, and those at the sides of the mouth, are very large: above each eye is also a very large scale: the nostrils are small, and between them and the eyes on each side is a large orifice, the use of which is perhaps not distinctly understood, but which has been regarded as a passage to the organ of hearing: the scales on the whole upper parts of the body are moderately large, ovate, and carinated, the back slightly elevated, the sides rather sloping,

and the abdomen flattish: the total length of the individual now described, in the British Museum, is something more than five feet, the body being of moderate thickness in proportion: the tail measures eight inches, and gradually tapers to the extremity, which is terminated by a small callous or horny point of about the eighth of an inch in length.

That this is a most formidable serpent, appears from the large size of the fangs, which are of the usual curved form, and measure near three quarters of an inch in length. The poison is said to resemble in appearance that of most other serpents, being a clear yellowish fluid, like olive oil: the symptoms produced by the bite are such as follow from that of the Viper, but in a much stronger degree: when preparing to bite it is said to throw itself into a spiral form, and to spring with great rapidity on its victim; but at other times to be rather slow of motion, and of a torpid or indolent nature, concealing itself beneath various vegetables, or within the hollows of trees, &c. and even sometimes in cavities under ground: it is said to frequent sugar plantations, for the sake of the rats, which abound in such situations; it also preys on birds, &c. the female is reported to go six months with young, which she produces in the months of August and September, perfectly formed, like those of the Viper, and very numerous, amounting to twenty, forty, and even, according to some accounts, as many as sixty: they are observed to vary in colour, some of the same



brood being yellow, others grey, and others of mixed colours: it is probable, however, that the colour of the full-grown animal is always similar to that of the individual above described.

The Count de Cepede, in his History of Serpents, gives this species the title of *Fer de Lance*, from a fancied resemblance between the shape of the flat subtriangular space on the middle of the head to that of a spear-head or halbert. The number of scuta in the small specimen described by that author was 228, and of subcaudal squamæ 61 pair. In the British Museum specimen above-described, the number of the former is 224, and of the latter 63.



SPECTACLE SNAKE.

Coluber Naja. C. ferrugineo-flavescens, collo supra macula magna conspicillata albo nigroque varia notato.

Ferruginous-yellow Snake, with the neck marked above by a large black and white spectacle-shaped spot.

Coluber Naja. Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 382.

Serpens Malabarica Cobra de Capello dicta. Seb. 2. t. 94. f. 2.

Serpens Indicus Noja dictus, &c. Seb. 2. t. 97.

Abdominal scuta 193, subcaudal squamæ 60.

THE *Coluber Naja*, or Cobra de Capello, is a native of India, where it appears to be one of the most common, as well as most noxious, of the Serpent tribe; very frequently proving fatal, in the space of a few minutes, to those who unfortunately experience its bite. Its remarkable form

and colours are such as to distinguish it with great ease from almost every other snake. Its general length seems to be three or four feet, and the diameter of the body about an inch and quarter: the head is rather small than large, and is covered on the fore part with large smooth scales; resembling, in this respect, the majority of innoxious serpents: the back part, sides, and neck, with smaller ovate scales; and the remainder of the animal, on the upper parts, with small, distinct, oblong-oval scales, not ill resembling the general form of a grain of rice. At a small distance beyond the head is a lateral swelling or dilatation of the skin, which is continued to the distance of about four inches downwards, where the outline gradually sinks into the cylindric form of the rest of the body. This part is extensile, at the pleasure of the animal; and when viewed from above, while in its most extended state, is of a somewhat cordated form, or wider at the upper than the lower part: it is marked above by a very large and conspicuous patch or spot, greatly resembling the figure of a pair of spectacles; the mark itself being white with black edges, and the middle of each of the rounded parts black. This mark is more or less distinct in different individuals, and also varies occasionally in size and form, and in some is even altogether wanting. The usual colour of the animal is a pale ferruginous brown above; the under parts being of a blueish white, sometimes slightly

tinged with pale brown, or yellow: the tail, which is of moderate length, tapers gradually, and terminates in a slender, sharp-pointed extremity.

This formidable reptile has obtained its Portuguese title of *Cobra de Capello* or *hooded snake* from the appearance which it presents when viewed in front in an irritated state, or when preparing to bite, at which time it bends the head rather downwards, and seems hooded, as it were, in some degree, by the expanded skin of the neck. In India it is every where exhibited publicly as a show, and is, of course, more universally known in that country than almost any other of the race of reptiles. It is carried about in a covered basket, and so managed by its proprietors as to assume, when exhibited, a kind of dancing motion; raising itself up on its lower part, and alternately moving its head and body from side to side for some minutes, to the sound of some musical instrument which is played during the time. The Indian jugglers, who thus exhibit the animal, first deprive it of its fangs, by which means they are secured from the danger of its bite.

Dr. Russel, in his account of experiments made in India with this serpent, observes, that, as a general standard for a comparison of the effect of its bite with that of other poisonous serpents, he never knew it prove mortal to a dog in less than twenty-seven minutes, and to a chicken in less than half a minute. Thus, fatal as it is, its poison seems not so speedy in operation as that of

the Rattle-Snake, which has been known to kill a dog in the space of two minutes.

In the month of June, 1787, a dog bitten by a Cobra de Capello on the inside of the thigh, howled at first, as if in severe pain: after two or three minutes he lay down, continuing to howl and moan: after twenty minutes he rose, but with much difficulty, being unable to walk, and his whole frame appeared greatly disordered. He soon lay down again, and in a few minutes was seized with convulsions, in which he expired, twenty-seven minutes after the bite.

A large and very stout dog was bitten by another Cobra de Capello on the inside of the thigh, which, in a minute or two, was drawn up, which is, in general, the first symptom of the poison having taken effect. He continued, however, nearly an hour longer, walking on the three remaining legs, seeming not otherwise disordered; but after this time, he laid himself along, in great inquietude, his head and throat being convulsed in an uncommon degree; he made several vain efforts to rise; his legs became both paralytic, and after continuing in this state near an hour, he expired.

Nov. 11th, a large dog was bitten by a Cobra de Capello which had been captive only two days. He complained a good deal at the instant of the bite, and the leg was drawn up soon. In twenty-five minutes he was seized with convulsions, succeeded by stupor, in which state he lay for ten minutes: the convulsions, however, returned, and

he expired in a quarter of an hour; being fifty-six minutes after the bite.

Aug. 9th, a Cobra de Capello, which had lost his two longest fangs, but retained two of the second order, was made to bite a very large stout dog. At first the dog complained loudly, though without drawing up the thigh, or shewing any other symptom of poison: but, happening at this time to break loose; he was pursued, and, after a chase of an hour and a half, was brought back, much fatigued and heated. After resting a quarter of an hour, water was offered to him, which was refused, though he eat some morsels of bread thrown into it. About a quarter of an hour afterwards he became much disturbed, grew entirely outrageous, howling violently, snapping at and gnawing the stake to which he was tied with incredible ferocity. This continued about three hours, when, growing faint, his howlings grew weaker, his convulsions increased, and he expired in about four hours after the bite.

A pig, bitten by a snake of this kind, which had been kept for more than six weeks, and fed only once in seven days with milk, became greatly disordered in twenty minutes, and expired in less than an hour.

A chicken, bitten by a Cobra de Capello, has been sometimes known to survive two hours.

Aug. 17/1788, an attempt was made to make a Cobra de Capello bite another (of the variety so called *Nooni Paragoodo*) in the tail, but that part being found too small, the belly was bitten, a little

above the vent. The bitten snake soon lost its former activity, and, when put under a glass, coiled itself up. In this state it was left, and after an hour and a quarter was found dead. On opening the belly, the parts immediately beneath the bite appeared much inflamed, though it could not be discovered whether the fangs had penetrated into the cavity.

A Cobra de Capello, received by Dr. Russel from Ganjam, under the name of *Salim Nag*, was made to bite another remarkably large Cobra, brought from the same place, under the name of *Coultiah*. The poison was shed on the place, but no marks of fangs could be perceived, and the *Coultiah* remained as well as before: this experiment was repeated with the same result, though a little blood as well as poison was found on the part bitten.

Some days after this, a Cobra de Capello (of the variety called *Coodum Nagoo*) was made to bite the *Coultiah* on the belly: both fangs visibly acted: blood appeared on the wound, but no other consequence followed. A *Tar Tutta*, bitten immediately after in the same manner, died within two hours.

Chickens and pigeons, bitten by a Cobra de Capello, whose fangs had been eradicated, suffered no symptoms of poison; but when poison, taken from the same snake, was inserted into their bodies, either by incision or puncture, they suffered the usual symptoms, and very often died.

The principal Indian varieties of this fatal snake are thus enumerated by Dr. Russel.

1. *Arege Nagoo*. With a pale central spot in the middle of each of the black spots of the spectacle-shaped mark.—*Abdominal scuta* 189, *subcaudal scales* 60.
2. *Coodum Nagoo*. This variety is darker than the others, and the skin of a yellower cast; but the principal distinction is in the spectacle-mark, which consists of an oblong curved frame without the usual black eyes or centre-spots of the others.—*Abdominal scuta* 187, *subcaudal scales* 57.
3. *Sinkoo Nagoo*. The chief distinction of this is a plain hood, without any mark. This variety is supposed by Seba to be the female of the species; but Dr. Russel informs us that one which he brought home from India, and presented to Mr. John Hunter, was a male, and that the usual spectacle-shaped mark is found indifferently both on males and females. This variety is rarer than the rest.—*Abdominal scuta* 183, *subcaudal scales* 56.
4. *Mogla Nagoo*. The cervical scuta in this variety are spotted here and there with faint greyish spots, and four of the middle ones are entirely of a blueish grey.—*Abdominal scuta* 192, *subcaudal scales* 65.
5. *Malle Nagoo*. The colour of this variety is of a lighter brown than the rest, and the scuta whiter and less spotted, but seven of

the pectoral ones are completely dark.—

Abdominal scuta 191, *subcaudal scales* 62.

6. *Cumboo Nagoo*. In this some deviations were observable in the shape of the laminæ; all the cervical scuta were dusky, and the trunk had a strong blueish cast.—*Abdominal scuta* 186, *subcaudal squamæ* 60.

7. *Jonna Nagoo*. The skin of the hood in this is tinged with orange colour; the scuta of the neck spotted with grey, and six of the lower ones wholly of a blue-grey.—*Abdominal scuta* 189, *subcaudal squamæ* 57.

8. *Nella Tas Pam*. With the black on the hood unusually deep, and all the jugular scuta remarkably dusky.—*Abdominal scuta* 186, *subcaudal squamæ* 62.

9. *Kistna Nagoo*. The middle lamina of the three between the eyes remarkably broad, and the posterior pair subovate instead of semi-cordate: five of the jugular scuta dusky, and six of the pectoral almost black.—*Abdominal scuta* 186, *subcaudal squamæ* 63.

10. *Korie Nagoo*. The three laminæ between the eyes remarkably narrow; the large posterior pair oval; colour of the trunk, and still more of the scuta, unusually blueish.—*Abdominal scuta* 184, *subcaudal squamæ* 57.

AMERICAN VARIETIES?

IF Seba be in the right, either the *Cobra de Capello*, or a species nearly allied to it, occurs in some parts of South America. He describes and figures one from *Peru*, which, in its general aspect, resembles the Indian, but has the neck not apparently of greater diameter than the body: it is marked with the spectacular patch, as in that kind, the whole area of the hood being dusky or brown: and a collar of the same colour at a small distance beneath: the colour of the rest of the animal rufous grey, with slight whitish variegations. Another kind is from *Brasil*, and is represented as of smaller size than usual (perhaps a half-grown animal), and of a ferruginous colour, with several dusky bands round the upper part of the body: the hood or dilated part marked with a pale or blueish-grey spectacle mark, with two black spots on each limb, one above the other. These Snakes the Count de Ceperde is willing to consider as distinct species, under the titles of the *Peruvian* and *Brasilian Naja*. But perhaps Seba may have been mistaken in supposing them American.

Reflecting on these and other horrid natives of the hotter regions of the globe, we cannot but join in the sentiment of Linnæus, congratulating ourselves on our own happy state of security; and may well be willing to prefer the rigours of a northern winter, with a temporary loss of vegetation, to the

continued warmth of climate, and ever-blooming verdure which distinguish the beautiful regions of both the Indies, where, alas! the incautious traveller may meet with sudden fate in the midst of the most enchanting scenes which nature can display.

RUSSELIAN SNAKE.

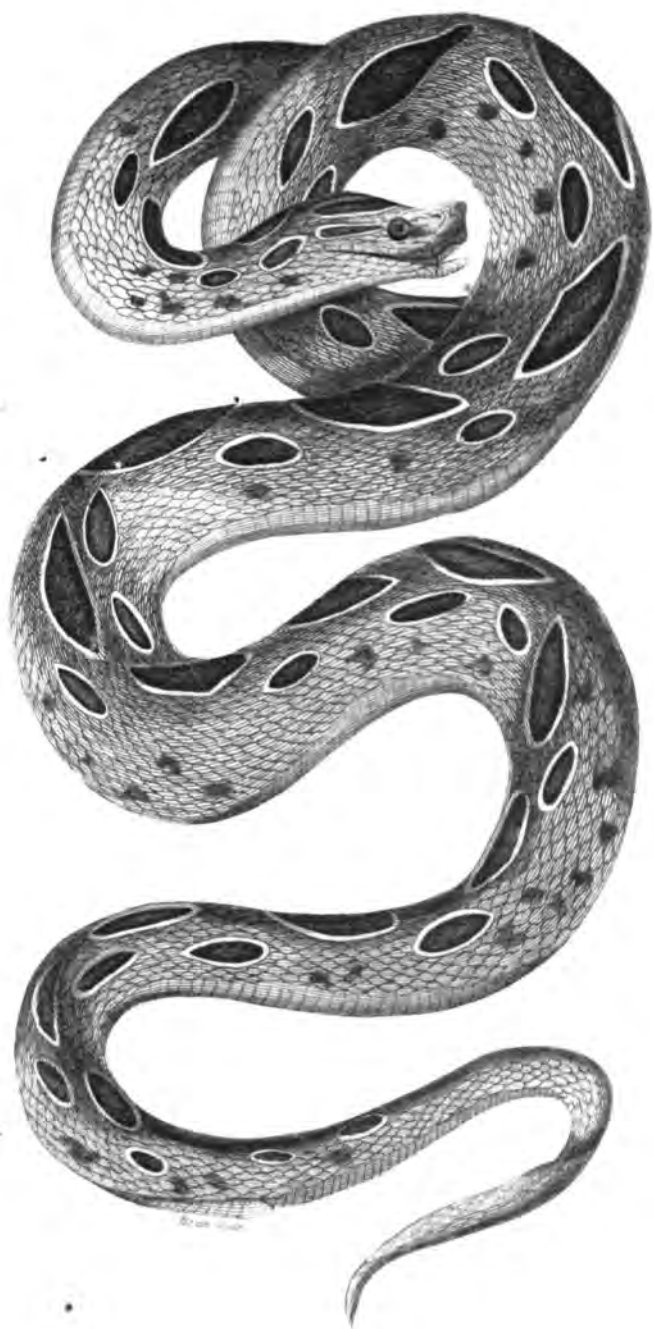
Coluber Russelii. C. fusco-flavescens, maculis dorsibus ovato-acuminatis nigricantibus albo marginatis, lateralibus minoribus ovatis.

Brownish-yellow Snake, with acutely-ovate blackish dorsal spots edged with white, and smaller ovate lateral ones.

Katuka Rekula Poda. *Russ. Ind. Serp. p. 10 pl. 7.*

Abdominal scuta 168, subcaudal squamæ 59.

THE length of this remarkable snake is about four feet: the colour an elegant pale yellowish brown, marked throughout the whole length of the back with a continued chain or series of large rhomboid, or rather oval, spots of deep brown, with paler middles, and narrow white edges: in some parts these spots are nearly confluent, as shewn in the figure: on each side of the body is a row of brown oval spots, smaller than those on the back; and, besides these, a few still smaller transverse marks are scattered here and there on the sides: the under part of the body is white, with a few dusky spots: the head is rather large; the snout obtuse; the mouth wide, the fangs large, and, as in several other poisonous serpents,



double; a smaller fang being situated close to the larger one on each side*.

Dr. Russel, in his work on Indian Serpents, informs us that this species is scarce less common in India than the Coluber Naja, or Cobra de Cappello; but from its not being carried about like that and some other snakes as a public show, is not so universally known either among the natives or Europeans. Its bite, according to Dr. Russel's experiments, proved fatal to chickens in thirty-eight seconds, and to a dog in twenty-six minutes.

The particulars of the experiments made on this subject are as follows:

A chicken bitten in the pinion by a *Katuka Rekula Poda*, which had been caught two or three days before, and seemed in high spirits, was instantly infected, seized with convulsions, and expired in thirty-eight seconds.

Immediately after the chicken, a stout dog was bitten in the thigh. Within less than five minutes he appeared stupified; the thigh was drawn up, and he frequently moved it as if in pain. He remained, however, standing, and eat some bread that was offered to him. In about ten minutes the thigh became paralytic: in fifteen minutes he entirely lost the use of the wounded thigh, and lay down, howling in a dismal man-

* In most venomous serpents there are two or three, or even more, small fangs, situated near the large ones; as if to supply their place when lost.

ner, frequently licking the wound, and making, at intervals, ineffectual attempts to rise. In nineteen minutes, after a short cessation, he again began to howl; moaned often; his breathing became laborious, and the jaws were completely shut. The few succeeding minutes were passed alternately in agony and stupor; and in twenty-six minutes after the bite he expired.

A second dog, of much smaller size, was next bitten, and expired in the space of six hours.

A rabbit was next exposed to the bite, and died in less than an hour.

After this a chicken was bitten in the pinion, and expired in less than six minutes.

All the above experiments were made with the same snake in the course of the same morning. It appears, therefore, that this species must be numbered among the most poisonous of the whole tribe.

GRASS-GREEN SNAKE.

Coluber Gramineus. C. viridis, subtus flavescens, abdominis margine viridi maculato.

Green Snake, yellowish beneath, with the edges of the abdomen spotted with green.

Boodroo Pam. *Russel Ind. Serp. p. 13. pl. 9.*

Abdominal scuta 170, subcaudal scales 58 pair.

NEARLY allied, in general appearance, to the *C. mycterizans*, *nasutus*, and *purpurascens*, but having a larger head in proportion, and an ob-

tusely tapering, but by no means pointed, snout; the head is also covered on all parts by very small scales: colour of the whole upper parts fine grass green; of the under parts pale yellow, the edges of the abdomen marked by a row of faint green spots: length about two feet and a half; tail about five inches, gradually tapering to the extremity: native of India: described by Dr. Russel: a poisonous species: fangs remarkably long and slender. From Dr. Russel's experiments it appears that a chicken died, after having suffered strong convulsions, and afterwards stupor, in about eight minutes from the bite: pigs and dogs were seized with stupor, convulsions, &c. but in the space of a few hours recovered from the effect of the poison.

 SEVERE SNAKE.

Coluber Severus. C. cinereus, fasciis obliquis linearibus albidis fusco marginatis.

Cinereous Snake, with oblique linear whitish bands edged with brown.

Coluber Severus. Linn. Syst. Nat. p. 379.

Vipera Japonica literas inscripta. Sch. 2. t. 54. f. 4. ?

Abdominal scuta 170, subcaudal squamæ 42.

A RATHER small species, growing to the length of about a foot and half, and being of moderate thickness: head broad, obtuse, livid, with a cinereous band between the eyes and behind the nostrils: eyes large; neck thick; colour of the upper parts cinereous, with whitish, narrow, transverse

bands directed obliquely forwards, and slightly edged with brown: abdomen dusky; sides speckled with white: tail short. This species seems to vary in colour, since in the Gmelinian edition of the *Systema Naturæ* the abdomen is said to be whitish. The Seban figure quoted by Linnæus in the *Systema Naturæ*, is described by the author as of a pale rufous colour, with yellowish bands somewhat resembling Hebrew characters in form, and edged with brown: the abdomen pale yellow, with a row of blackish spots on each side.

BULL-HEADED SNAKE.

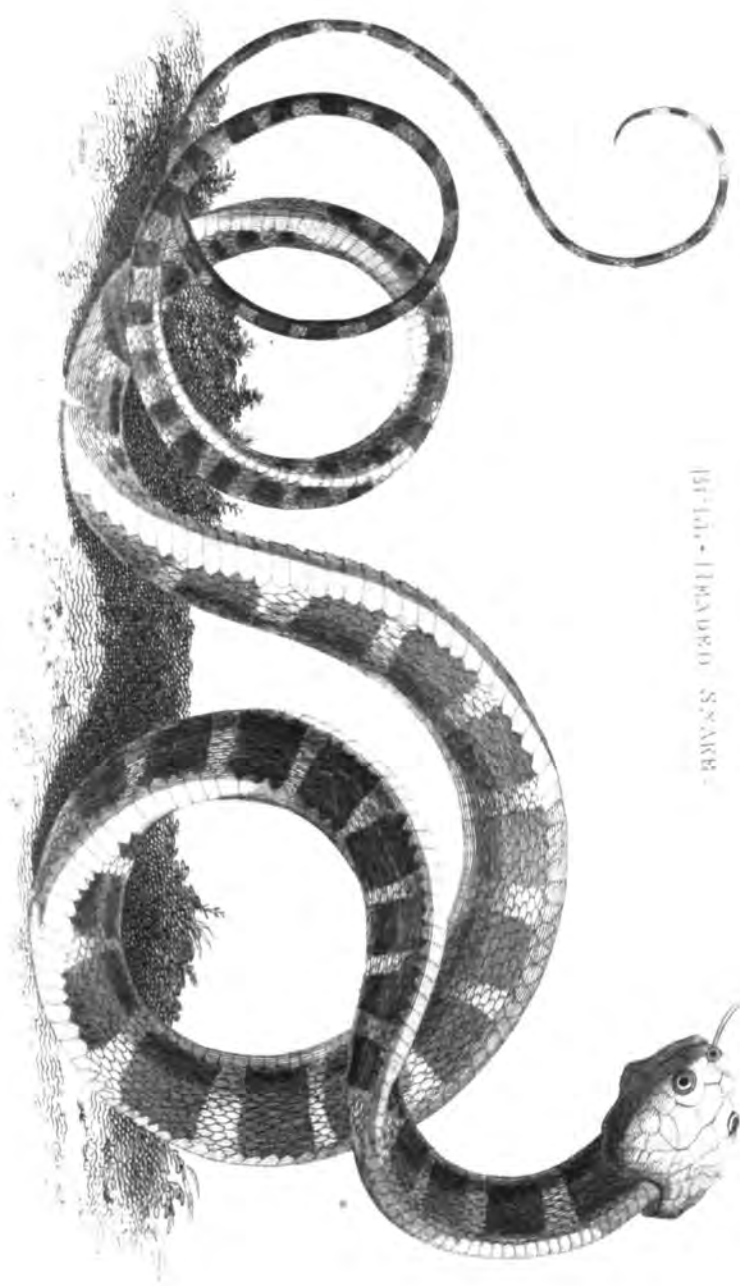
Coluber Bucephalus. *C. subfuscus, albido transversim fasciatus, capite magno, cordato, depresso, corpore compresso, cauda tenuissima.*

Brownish Snake, with transverse whitish bars, large cordated depressed head, compressed body, and very thin tail.

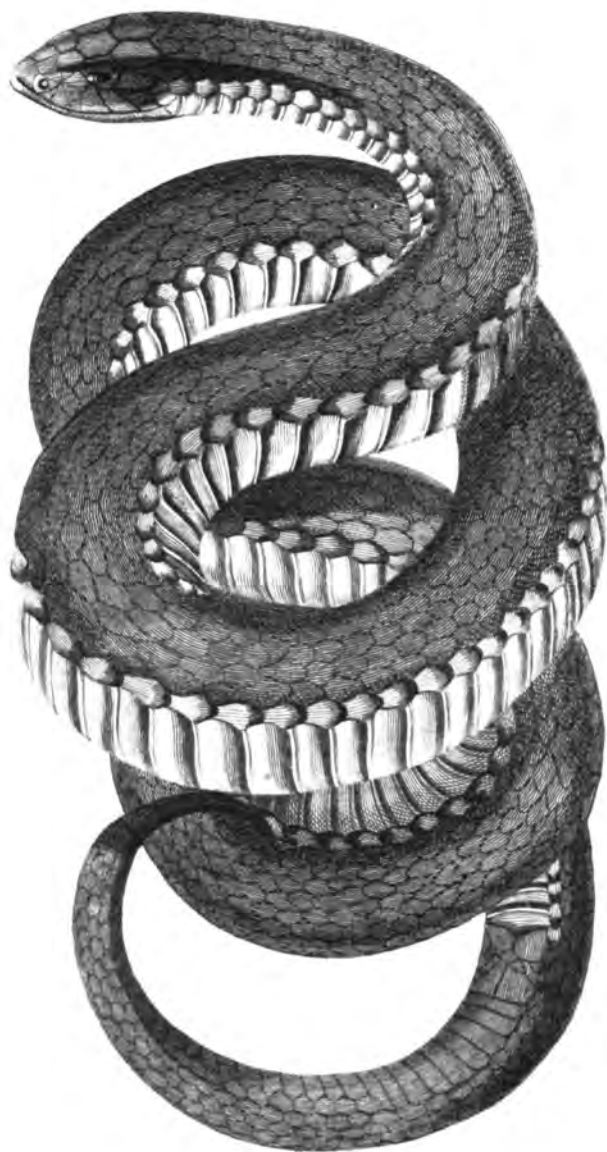
Serpens Lusitanis Cobra de Capello dicta. *Seb. 1. t. 43. f. 4.*

A VERY singular species: length about four feet and a half: head extremely large, depressed, cordate behind, and somewhat compressed on the sides of the mouth; covered above by very large scaly plates: at some distance from the eyes are two remarkable, oblong, brown spots: neck thin, and, together with the whole body, extremely compressed on the sides: tail long, round, and tapering to a fine point: from the head along the back runs a row of large, broad, hexagonal scales, those on the other parts being ovate: abdominal

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CRIMSON-SIDED SNAKE.



scuta very narrow: colour of the whole animal rufous brown, with moderately distant, broadish, transverse, pale bands, each of which, at its juncture with the scuta, is marked by a white spot. Native of Ceylon according to Seba, who improperly calls it a kind of Cobra de Capello. It is uncertain whether it be a poisonous species or not, but it bears a highly malignant aspect.

CRIMSON-SIDED SNAKE.

Coluber Porphyriacus. C. nigro-violaceus, lateribus abdomineque purpureis, scutis nigro marginatis.

Violet-black Snake, with the abdomen and sides crimson; the scuta margined with black.

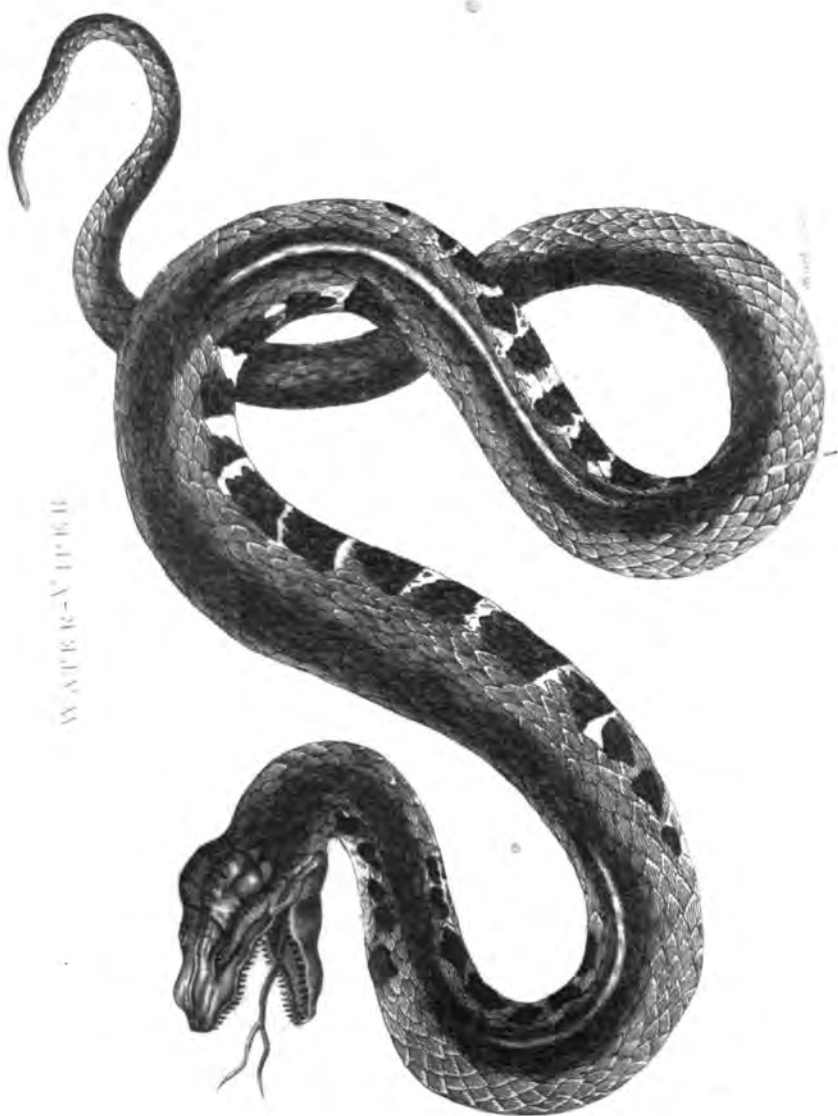
Coluber Porphyriacus. Zool. of New Holl. p. 27. pl. 10.

Abdominal scuta 188, anal scuta 7, subcaudal squamæ 45.

A MODERATELY large, and highly beautiful species: general proportions nearly the same with those of the Col. Natrix, or common English Snake: head rather small, and covered in front with large scales: colour of the head and whole upper parts very fine deep violet: sides and abdomen crimson, deepest on the former, the large scales nearest the scuta being carmine-coloured, with black tips: the abdomen rose-coloured, with a tinge of yellow, each scutum deeply edged with black; thus forming a beautiful series of transverse black bars down the abdomen: the tail measures about a sixth of the whole length, and is furnished beneath, exclusive of the divided

subcaudal scales, with about seven scuta or undivided lamellæ, commencing immediately beyond the vent, which is edged with several smaller squamæ: the colour of the under part of the tail is a blueish ash, the rose-colour of the abdomen ceasing at the commencement of the tail.

I must here apologize for an inaccuracy in the description of this Snake in the Zoology of New Holland, where it is mentioned as destitute of fangs, and consequently innoxious; the specimen then examined having been somewhat mutilated: others, however, which have been since received, are found to be furnished with those organs, and the animal is even said to be highly dreaded by the natives of Australasia. It furnishes an additional example of a poisonous snake with the head covered with large scales in front, and thus resembling the major part of the innoxious serpents. I must also add, that the figure in the Zoology of New Holland, though accurate in all other particulars, yet represents the animal somewhat too thick in proportion to its length; a fault which is amended in the representation given in the present work.



WATER B-V 1864

HÆMACHATE SNAKE.

Coluber Hæmachates. *C. ruber, albo nebulatus, abdomine albo-flavescente.*

Red Snake, clouded with white, with yellowish white abdomen.

Serpens Asiatica Hæmachates dicta. *Seb. 2. t. 58. fig. 1, 3.*

L'Hæmachate. *Cepede Serp. p. 115. pl. 3. f. 2.*

Abdominal scuta 132, subcaudal scales 43 pair.

AN elegant species; well represented by Seba, who informs us that it is a native of the East Indies, having been received from Persia and Japan. Its general length is about two feet or more; its colour red, more or less deep in different individuals, and sometimes of a brownish cast; variegated with white or whitish undulations, so as to appear as if marbled: under parts yellow or whitish: head moderately large, and covered in front with large scales: tail extremely short, tapering to a point. It is, according to Cepede, a poisonous species.

 WATER VIPER.

Coluber Aquaticus. *C. fuscus, abdomine nigro flavoque fasciato.*
Brown Snake, with the abdomen banded with black and yellow.

Water Viper. *Catesb. Carol. 2. pl. 43.*

“THIS serpent,” says Catesby, “is called in Carolina the Water Rattle-Snake; not that it hath a rattle, but is a large snake, and coloured not

much unlike the Rattle-Snake, and the bite said to be as mortal. This Snake frequents the water, and is never seen at any great distance from it: the back and head are brown; the belly transversely marked with black and yellow alternately, as are the sides of the neck: the neck is small, the head large, and armed with the like destructive weapons as the Rattle-Snake: it is very nimble, and particularly dextrous in catching fish. In summer great numbers are seen lying on the branches of trees hanging over rivers, from which at the approach of a boat they drop down into the water, and often into the boat, on the men's heads: they lie in this manner to surprise either birds or fish, after which last they plunge, and pursue them with great swiftness, and catch some of a large size, which they carry on shore and swallow whole. One of these I surprised swimming ashore with a large cat-fish in its mouth. The tail is small towards the end, and terminates in a blunt horny point about half an inch in length, and which, though harmless, is considered as of dreadful efficacy by the credulous vulgar, who believe that the animal is able, with this weapon, not only to kill men and other animals, but even to destroy a tree by wounding it with it; the tree withering, turning black, and dying."

WHITE SNAKE.

Coluber Niveus. *C. totus albus immaculatus.*

Snake entirely white, without any variegations.

Coluber niveus. *Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 334.*

Abdominal scuta 209, subcaudal squamæ 62.

OBSERVED by Linnæus in the Museum of Degeer: colour entirely white, without any spots: said to be a native of Africa, and a poisonous species. Linnæus, in the Systema Naturæ, refers to the fifteenth plate of Seba's second volume, which represents a moderately large snake of a white colour, with a few distant, small oblong black specks on the upper parts of the body, and which is rather supposed by Mr. Merrem to be a variety of the Coluber pullatus.

MILK-WHITE SNAKE.

Coluber Lacteus. *C. albus, dorso maculis atris geminatis, vertice atro linea longitudinali alba.*

White Snake, with the back marked by double black spots; the head black with a longitudinal white line.

Coluber Lacteus. *Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 381.*

Abdominal scuta 203, subcaudal squamæ 32.

LENGTH of the specimen described by Linnæus about a foot and half: diameter scarcely that of a finger: head ovate, with the top black, marked by a longitudinal white line: eyes small: throat white: trunk cylindric, white, marked with

double black confluent spots of considerable size: abdomen livid or brownish: tail a ninth part of the whole length, and slightly tapering. Linnæus observes that this species has somewhat the habit of the *Anguis Scytale*. Native of India and South America, and said to be poisonous.

BROAD-CHEEKED SNAKE.

Coluber Buccatus. C. albidus maculis magnis dorsalibus duplicatis fuscis, capite subdepresso, genis tumidis.

Whitish Snake, with large double brown dorsal spots, subdepressed head, and tumid cheeks.

Coluber Buccatus. Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 377.

Abdominal scuta 107, subcaudal scales 72.

A SMALL species; the specimen described by Linnæus measuring about a foot in length: head large, very thick on the sides, flattish, white, and marked by a trigonal dusky spot over the snout, and by a dusky line reaching to the eye on each side: trunk white or whitish, marked all along the back by a double row of very broad brown spots, which almost fill the whole space of the skin: tail rather slender; measuring about a fourth of the whole: native of South America and of India: a poisonous species.

FIERCE SNAKE.

Coluber Atrox. *C. griseus, fasciis transversis linearibus albidis, abdomine fusco albo transversim variato.*

Grey-brown Snake, with transverse linear whitish stripes, and dusky abdomen with white transverse variegations.

Coluber Atrox. *Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 388. Mus. Ad. Frid. p. 33. t. 22. f. 2.*

Abdominal scuta 196, subcaudal scales 69.

THIS, according to Linnæus, is a small species, measuring about a foot and a half in length, and of a grey colour, marbled beneath with transverse alternate deep brown spots: the head is depressed, compressed, and covered with very small scales, which, as well as the larger ones on the rest of the animal, are carinated. In the *Museum Adolphi Friderici*, p. 33. this species is, by a mistake, inscribed *angulatus*, while the figure, on plate 22 of that work, represents the body marked by several distant, narrow, transverse whitish bands reaching to the abdomen, which is spotted with small, round, white specks: the dusky transverse spots appearing only beneath the tail: the general colour of the abdomen, however, in this snake is rather deep brown or blackish, beautifully variegated or marbled by numerous narrow transverse bands, accompanied here and there with small spots: the tail is remarkably short and slender. In the *Systema Naturæ* a mistaken reference appears to be made to a figure in Seba representing a very different species. The *C. atrox* is a poisonous snake, and is a native of the island of Ceylon.

SHORT-HEADED SNAKE.

Coluber Breviceps. *C. capite brevi, corpore vario.*

Snake with short head and variegated body.

Cobra, s. *Vipera de Neustria, coronata, Ceilonica* : *fœmina.*

Seb. 2. t. 46. f. 2.

Serpens Porphyrius Brasiliensis. *Seb.* 1. t. 85. f. 1.

THIS, from the description and figures of Seba, appears to be a highly elegant species, but seems to vary considerably in its colours; one specimen being of a blueish grey, with large patches of rufous brown, accompanied by smaller spots of similar colour; while the abdomen is of a pale ferruginous cast, without any spots or variegations. The other specimen (for both appear evidently to belong to the same species, though described as different ones by the author) is pale yellow, with large patches and variegations of black, beautifully intermixed with red and white specks, the abdomen being marked by numerous transverse bars of red and white, the scuta appearing edged with black: the head is large, short, obtuse, slightly cordate, covered with moderately large scales, and elegantly variegated with small spots and marks of red, black, &c.; the neck and body are thick; the tail short, and tapering to the tip: the whole animal has an appearance, in some degree, resembling that of a Viper, though very different in its colours, and thicker in proportion to its length, which is about two feet; the first described specimen is, according to Seba, a native of Ceylon, the other of Brasil.

SILVER-EYED SNAKE.

Coluber Melanis. *C. ater, lateribus subcæruleo nebulosis, iridibus fuscis, margine pupillari argentea.*

Deep-black Snake, with the sides clouded with blueish, the eyes brown, with the edge of the pupil silvery.

Coluber Melanis. *Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p. 1087. Pall. it. 1. p. 460.*

Abdominal scuta 148, subcaudal scales 27.

A SIBERIAN species, and found about the borders of the Volga and the Samara, where it was observed by Dr. Pallas. It has a general resemblance to the Viper, but differs in colour, being of a deep black on the back, of a steely lustre beneath, marked with patches of a deeper cast, while along the sides are dispersed a kind of clouds or spots of a blueish colour: the eyes are of a bright white, with perpendicular pupils, and ferruginous irides: the tail is short, and gradually tapers to the tip: upon the whole, it may well be doubted whether this be any thing more than a variety of the common Viper.

CORALLINE SNAKE.

Coluber Corallinus. C. glaucus, squamis subcordatis, supra lineis tribus longitudinalibus fuscis.

Glaucous Snake, with subcordated scales, and three brown lines down the back.

Coluber Corallinus. Linn. Syst. Nat. p. 384.

Serpens Corallina Amboinensis. Seb. 2. t. 17. f. 1.

Abdominal scuta 193, subcaudal scales 82.

LENGTH near three feet: head small, and covered with large scales: those on the body small, somewhat heart-shaped, and disposed in longitudinal rays or stripes, representing, in some degree, the articulations of Coralline: colour above blueish grey, sometimes greenish, with three dusky or rufous longitudinal streaks down the back: tail rather long, and tapering to a slender tip: abdomen pale. This, according to Linnæus, is a poisonous species: it preys on lizards, &c. In Seba is a representation of the identical specimen afterwards described by Linnæus*, taken in the act of swallowing a lizard, of at least equal diameter with its own body, in consequence of which the jaws are distended in such a manner as to alter entirely the natural appearance of the head, by stretching the lower into a perpendicular direction. It is a native of the eastern regions.

* Mus. Ad. Frid. p. 53.

CANADA SNAKE.

Coluber Leberis. *C. pallidus, supra fasciis linearibus nigris capite albido.*

Pale Snake, with white head, and body marked above by linear black bands.

Coluber Leberis. *Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 275.*

Abdominal scuta 110, subcaudal scales 50.

SLIGHTLY described by Kalm, who informs us that it is a native of Canada, and that the upper parts are traversed by linear black bands: the head is white, with two rufous spots on the top, and a triangular spot over the nose: it is marked in the *Systema Naturæ* as a poisonous species, but Dr. Gray, in his paper on the Amphibia published in the *Philosophical Transactions*, considers this particular as doubtful.

 SUPERB SNAKE.

Coluber Elegantissimus. *C. albus capite nigro variato, corpore supra maculis rubris ocellatis serie quintuplici per dorsum dispositis.*

White Snake, with head variegated with black, and body marked above by a quintuple series of ocellated red spots.

Serpens lemniscata venustissima Americana. *Seb. 1. t. 81. f. 5.*

THIS, from the description and figure of Seba, appears to be a beautiful species, measuring about two feet in length; of a white colour, marked down the upper part with a quintuple series of black spots, with red centres, the middle row

being composed of very small spots, the next on each side of larger ocellated ones, and the lowest on each side, next the scuta, resembling that on the middle of the back, and consisting of small specks: the head is marked by a cross-shaped spot on the top, and by a few blackish ones across the snout: the tail appears short in proportion to the animal, measuring about two inches and a half, and tapering to a point. In the Gmelinian edition of the *Systema Naturæ* this snake is marked, I know not on what authority, as a poisonous species. It is said by Seba to be a native of America.

AULIC SNAKE.

Coluber Aulicus. C. griseo-fuscus, fasciis transversis albis super latera bifurcis.

Grey-brown Snake, with transverse white bands biturcating over the sides.

Coluber Aulicus. Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 381.

Abdominal scuta 184, subcaudal scales 60.

A SMALL species, the specimen described by Linnæus measuring only half a foot in length, and about a third of an inch in diameter: colour grey-brown, with more than twenty linear, white transverse bands, each bifurcated towards the abdomen: head white behind: tail about the fourth of the whole length: native of America, and considered as a poisonous species.

ZEBOA.

Vipera Orientalis, Hebræis *Zeboa*, Græcis *Hyæna* dicta. *Seb.* 2.
t. 78. f. 1.

Of the size and general appearance of the common Viper, but differing in colour, being of a pale yellow, with the marks on the head, dorsal band, and lateral spots, of a reddish chesnut colour: perhaps no other than a variety of the Viper; yet the head is represented as covered in front with large scales: native of the Indian islands.

BOIQUATRARA.

Serpens Indica Boiquatrara dicta. *Seb.* 2. t. 78. f. 4.

EXTREMELY resembling the preceding, but of larger size: colour cinereous yellow, with chesnut coloured dorsal stripe, consisting of large well-defined rhomboid spots touching each other: lateral spots, ovate, distinct, and reddish brown: head marked by a divaricated linear stripe on the top, the ends pointing backwards: perhaps, like the former, a variety of the common Viper.

MALPALON.

Serpens Ceilanica Malpalon dicta à Rajo in Synops. p. 331.
Seb. 2. t. 39. f. 4.

A BEAUTIFUL snake, about the size of the common Viper, and of a bright yellow colour, with a black dorsal stripe consisting of rather small, numerous, alternate, squarish spots (but with round, projecting ends), united to a middle black line: lateral spots of similar form, but of a red colour: sides of the body, near the scuta, speckled with black: head rather large, of a somewhat lengthened form, covered in front with large scales, and variegated with black spots: abdomen yellow, spotted with black: tail rather long, and gradually tapering to a fine point.

STRIATED SNAKE.

Serpens Brasiliensis versicolor, species Æsculapii. Seb. 2.
t. 42. f. 1.

LENGTH about two feet: colour above pale blue, elegantly undulated by numerous blackish transverse streaks: head of moderate size, large-scaled, spotted with black, and marked at the beginning of the neck with a pair of short streaks: abdomen white: tail moderately taper.

SERENUS.

Serpens Cenchrus, vel *Serenus* Brasiliensis. *Seb.* 2. t. 42. f. 2.

ABOUT the size of the preceding: colour above blue, with a moderately broad dorsal sea-green stripe, marked with a few small, distant, black spots: the sides marked with deep blue or blackish spots: head of moderate size, large-scaled, and marked at the top by a large and somewhat triangular white spot pointing backwards: abdomen white, the scuta pretty deeply edged or variegated with dark brown: tail gradually tapering to a fine point: native of Brasil.

LOZENGE-SPOTTED SNAKE.

Coluber Rhombeatus. *C. glaucus, maculis rhombeatis nigricantibus medio caeruleis.*

Glaucous Snake, with blackish lozenge-shaped spots blue in the middle.

Coluber Rhombeatus. *Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 380. Mus. Ad. Frid. p. 27. t. 24. f. 2.*

Vipera Cencoatl dicta. *Seb.* 2. t. 26. f. 1, 2, 3?

Serpens Amboinensis tigrina. *Seb.* 2. t. 15. f. 2.

Abdominal scuta 157, subcaudal scales 70.

GENERAL length from two to three feet or more: colour grey or brownish, with three alternating, longitudinal rows of ovate, but somewhat rhomboid, dusky spots with large blueish centres: head rather large than small: abdomen pale or whitish, often clouded with blueish grey: the

rhomboid spots are most regular in the smaller specimens, in the larger becoming somewhat more broken in the outline and more approaching to an ovate form: native of India and South America: in the number of its abdominal and subcaudal scales it occasionally varies considerably.

OCELLATED SNAKE.

Coluber Ocellatus. C. castaneus, maculis ocellatis fuscis abdomine flavo.

Chesnut-coloured Snake, with ocellated brown spots, and yellow abdomen.

Serpens Guineensis rarissima Argus dicta. Seb. 2. t. 23. f. 1.

SIZE and general proportions of the Viper: colour pale chesnut, beautifully marked with five alternating rows of round ocellated spots, those of the middle range being the largest and of a blackish brown, the lateral ones of a paler or more rufous brown: abdomen yellow, with small scattered rufous spots: head covered with small scales: tail tapering to a moderately slender tip: native, according to Seba, of Guinea, and a rare species.

ARGUS SNAKE.

Coluber Argus. *C. fusco-castaneus, subtus flavescens, supra maculis ocellaribus rubris transversim fasciatus.*

Chesnut brown Snake, yellow beneath, and banded above by transverse rows of ocellated red spots.

Serpens Arabica Brasiliensibus *Ibiboboca* & *Boiguacu* dicta; alias Argus. *Seb. 2. l. 103.*

LINNÆUS, relaxing from the strictness of his general rule, has admitted this snake into the *Systema Naturæ*, though he knew not the number of its scuta and squamæ, which he seems to have considered as the most important of all points in the history of Serpents: it indeed forms a very useful addition to the general character, and should never be neglected where it can be ascertained; but can hardly be considered as the only, or even the chief, mark of distinction*. The Argus Snake is a large and elegant species, measuring, according to Seba, its first describer, above five feet in length, and being of a moderate thickness in proportion: the head is large, flattish, covered in front with small scales, and so very protuberant on each side at the hind part as to appear heart-shaped, or rather bilobate: the teeth large and strong: the whole upper surface of the animal is of a dusky chesnut colour, the scales being small, ovate, and each marked by a white speck; while

* Scuta in serpentibus plurimum variant, ut nunquam scutis ipsis fidendum.—*Laurenti.*

the body is beautifully marked from head to tail by numerous transverse rows of round ocellated red spots, surrounded by a white iris and by an exterior red one: the number of these ocellated spots in each row is about seven or eight: the under part of the animal or abdomen is of a pale yellow colour: the scuta broad in proportion to the body; the tail moderately slender, tapering to a point, and seemingly measuring about a fifth of the whole length. This Snake is, according to Seba, a native of Arabia. The appearance of the head seems strongly to indicate a poisonous species.

CHIAMETLA SNAKE.

Coluber Chiametla. *C. cæruleus, subtus flavus, singulis squamis macula alba notatis.*

Blue Snake, yellow beneath, with every scale marked by a white spot.

Serpens Americana *Chiametla dicta.* Seb. 2, t. 61. f. 1.

Vipera cærulea Americana ex insula Sancti Eustachii. Seb. 2, t. 36. f. 4.

THIS, which is described and figured by Seba, is a highly beautiful species, measuring about four feet and a half in length, and having nearly the same general proportions with the common English snake, except that the head is larger. The colour of the whole animal above is a beautiful vivid blue, each scale being marked in the middle by a white spot: along the sides is a row of moderately distant black spots with white centres: the head is covered with large scales, and is

unspotted, as is also the thinnest part of the tail, where the blue is more intense than on the other parts: the under part of the animal is of a yellowish white, and in a smaller specimen figured in the same work the abdomen is of an orange-colour. This species is a native of South America and the West-Indian islands: uncertain whether poisonous or not.

JAVA SNAKE.

Coluber Javanicus. C. griseus, capite caeruleo striato, corpore striis caeruleis margine luteis decussato.

Grey Snake, with the head striped with blue, and the body crossed by blue stripes with gold-coloured edges.

Abdominal scuta 312, subcaudal scales 93.

THIS remarkable snake is described by Mr. Wurmb, in the Memoirs of the Batavian Society for the year 1787. It grows to the length of nine feet, and is principally seen in the rice-fields of Java; but it is added, that those which are found in the higher and more wooded situations arrive at a far superior size, so as to become dangerous from their strength alone, devouring not only rats, birds, &c. but even some of the larger animals, which cannot always escape their pursuit. The head of this snake is large and flat, and covered, as in the major part of this genus, with large scaly plates: the mouth is furnished with double rows of sharp teeth, but is destitute of fangs, the animal not being of a poisonous nature: the iris of

the eye is yellow: the upper part of the head grey mixed with blue: from behind the eyes pass two deep-blue stripes to the upper part of the neck, where they unite into an arch about an inch beyond the head: a third stripe of the same colour proceeds from the snout to the occiput, where it divides into two, and surrounds a yellow spot marked with a few blue specks: the upper part of the body is divided, as it were, into squares resembling a kind of lattice-work, formed by stripes of bright blue with gold-coloured edges: the middle parts of the squares being of a grey colour, with changeable reflections of yellow, blue, and green: towards the sides the grey colour is of a lighter or paler cast, as well as on the tail, where the squares are smaller than on the back: each side of the body is also marked by a row of white spots, situated at the crossings of the blue stripes. This superb species is called in Java by the title of *Oular-Sawa*, or Rice-Field Snake.

DABOYA SNAKE.

Le Daboie. *Cepede Serp. p. 255. pl. 13. f. 2.*

THIS Snake is slightly described by the Count de Cepede, who considers it as the species which, in the kingdom of Juda, or Widah, and some other parts of Africa, is regarded as a deity, and kept in temples consecrated to its worship. This superstition is said by the traveller De Marchais to

have originated from the following circumstance, viz. the army of Juda being on the point of yielding to that of Ardra, it happened that a large serpent of this species made its appearance, which the chief priest (probably knowing it to be innoxious) lifted up in his arms, and displaying it as a kind of miracle, or at least as a propitious omen, persuaded the army again to rally, by which means a signal victory was obtained, and the animal was in consequence exalted into a divinity. It is said to arrive at a very considerable size, and is of a whitish colour, ornamented on the upper part throughout the whole length, by a triple range of large oval rufous patches bordered with black: the head is rather large, and covered with oval carinated scales similar to those on the rest of the animal: the mouth is destitute of fangs: the specimen in the royal cabinet, described by the Count de Cepede, measured three feet five inches in total length, the tail measuring five inches and nine lines.

BRASILIAN SNAKE.

La Brasilienne. *Cepede Serp. p. 119. pl. 4. f. 1.*

DESCRIBED by Cepede, and considered as a species before unnoticed: length about three feet, but probably grows to a much larger size: head, as well as body, covered with oval carinated scales: snout terminated by a large and almost perpendicular scale rounded at top, but emarginated at

the bottom for the passage of the tongue: upper parts of the animal marked by large, oval, rufous patches bordered with black; and in the intervals between the large patches are several much smaller ones of a dusky colour: fangs very large: native of Brasil. From the jaws of a poisonous serpent from the same country, preserved in the royal cabinet, and agreeing in all particulars, except in size, with those of the above species, the Count de Cepede infers that the animal, at its full size, may be supposed to arrive at the length of six feet.

If we compare the description of this species with that of the *Daboya*, we shall find an extreme resemblance between the two animals, the *Daboya* only appearing to differ from the present species in not being furnished with fangs.

TRIANGULAR-HEADED SNAKE.

La Tête-Triangulaire. *Cepede Serp.* p. 132. pl. 5. f. 2.

ALLIED in general appearance to the common Viper: colour greenish, with spots of different shapes on the head and body, uniting so as to form an irregular band down the back: abdomen dusky, with white edges: head of a more triangular shape than usual, owing to the projecting ends of the jaws, covered with small scales, which, as well as those on the body, are smooth, or not carinated: total length two feet, of which the tail

measures three inches and nine lines: native of the island of Eustatia: described by the Count de Cepede.

PANTHER SNAKE.

La Tigrée. *Cepede Serp. p. 136.*

ALLIED to the Viper: length about a foot and half: tail two inches: head like that of the common Viper: all the scales carinated: colour of the upper parts whitish rufous, with dusky spots bordered with black, like those on the skin of a panther or leopard: colour of the under parts not specified. Described by Cepede. Native country unknown. This seems allied to the *Ocellated Snake*.

LEOPARD SNAKE.

Serpens tigrina ex insula Bali, &c. Seb. 2. t. 46. f. 3

LENGTH about two feet: colour a beautiful yellow, spotted with numerous, moderately small, ovate, or roundish black or deep brown spots: abdomen variegated with transverse brown streaks: head rather small, large-scaled, rather sharp-snouted, of a brown colour above: tail rather slender, and tapering to a fine point: native of the Indian islands.

SPOTTED SNAKE.

Coluber Maculatus. C. caeruleus, nigro maculatus, subtus albidus, scutis margine maculis dimidiatis nigris.

Blueish Snake, spotted with black, whitish beneath, with the scuta marked on the edge with dimidiated black spots.

GENERAL habit of *C. Natrix*, but not so long in proportion: colour glaucous or pale blueish, marked on the upper parts with numerous, roundish, black spots: sides of the scuta with dimidiated spots of the same colour. It seems much allied to the figure in Seba above referred to, but differs in colour; Seba's specimen being yellow instead of blue: described from a specimen in the British Museum.

 RINGED SNAKE.

Coluber Natrix. C. olivaceo-fuscus (interdum caeruleus) macula collari utrinque nigra, alteraque flava, lateribus nigro maculatis, abdomine fusco.

Olive-brown (or blueish) Snake, with a black patch accompanied by a yellow one on each side the neck, a row of narrow black spots down each side, and dusky abdomen.

Coluber Natrix. Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 380.

Natrix torquata. Raj. Quadr. 334.

The Common Snake. Ringed Snake. *Brit. Zool. 3. p. 31.*

Abdominal scuta 170, subcaudal scales 60.

THIS species appears to be pretty generally diffused through all parts of Europe, and is common in our own island, frequenting woods, moist

hedges, and shady places: in colour it occasionally varies, but is generally either of a blueish grey or pale olive on the upper parts, marked along the sides by a row of small transverse black streaks, alternating with some smaller spots of the same colour; and on each side the neck is a black and somewhat semilunar patch, the horns or tips pointing forward: this is bounded in front by a second patch of a pale yellow or whitish colour, thus forming a kind of collar on each side the neck: the under parts are of a mixed black and whitish colour, the black being disposed in large squarish alternate patches or divisions, which towards the tail become more confluent, so as nearly to exclude the other variegations: the head is rather small than large, and is covered with large scaly plates: the sides of the mouth are marked by several black bars: the remainder of the upper parts are covered with ovate and slightly carinated scales: the tail is of moderate length, and gradually tapers to the extremity. This animal is of an innoxious nature, and may be tamed to a considerable degree. Mr. White, in his History of Selburne, has the following remark on this subject: "I knew a gentleman who kept a tame snake, which was in its person as sweet as any animal; but as soon as a stranger, or a dog or cat came in, fell to hissing, and filled the room with such nauseous effluvia as rendered it hardly supportable." The snake chiefly lives by preying on frogs, mice, small birds, insects, worms, &c. It is known to frequent the water occasionally, for the sake of

frogs, &c. and is capable of swimming, though not with any great degree of celerity. It deposits its eggs in any warm and moist situation, as under hedges, in dunghills, &c. in the form of a continued chain or necklace of ova, to the number of twelve, fourteen, sixteen, or even twenty, of the size of those of a blackbird, and of a whitish colour: these, according to the observations of Mr. White, "do not hatch till the spring following,"

During the winter the snake conceals itself in any convenient retreat, and becomes nearly torpid, reappearing in the spring, when it casts its skin, which cracking or opening on the edges of the lips, is, by the efforts of the animal, gradually thrown off, in an inverted direction, throughout its whole length, to the very terminal scale of the tail, and so complete is the spoil or exuvium, as to exhibit the very coat or membrane of the eyes* themselves: the whole skin is entirely transparent.

* Not the cornea itself, but its exterior pellicle.

FRENCH SNAKE.

Coluber Atrovirens. C. atrovirens, flavo maculatus, abdomine flavo lateribus nigro punctato.

Black-green Snake, speckled with yellow; the abdomen yellow, with a row of black specks down each side.

Anguis Æsculapii niger. Aldrov. Serp. p. 271. Jonst. Rept. t. V.

La Coleuvre verte & jaune. *Cepede Serp. p. 137. pl. 6. f. 1.*

Abdominal scuta 206, subcaudal scales 107.

THIS seems to be the species figured in Aldrovandus under the name of *Anguis Æsculapii niger*, and which appears to have been so little attended to by modern naturalists as to have been generally confounded with the preceding, till it was again brought to notice by Mons. Daubenton, and afterwards by the Count de Cepede, who has accurately described it, and who informs us that it is very frequent in some of the Provinces of France, being found in woods and moist shady places: in its general size and appearance it resembles the Ringed Snake or *Natrix*, but differs in colour, being of an extremely dark or blackish green, so as to appear black on a cursory view, the sides being marked by numerous rays of yellow specks, of different forms, some oblong, and some square, and which form somewhat more decided or distinctly marked stripes towards the tail than towards the head: the eyes and edges of the mouth are bordered with yellow scales: the abdomen is also yellow, each scutum being marked on each side by a black speck. This snake is an animal of a perfectly harmless nature, and, like

the former, is capable of being tamed to a considerable degree. The Count de Cepede relates, from Mr. Bomare, an anecdote relative to a snake which he supposes to have been of this species, which had been so completely tamed by a lady, as to come to her whenever she called it, follow her in her walks, wreath itself round her arms, and sleep in her bosom. One day, when this lady went in a boat, to some distance up a large river, she threw the snake into the water; imagining that it would readily recover the boat by swimming; but the current proving unusually strong, at that juncture, owing to the advance of the tide, the poor animal, in spite of all its efforts to reach the vessel, was unfortunately drowned. On the approach of winter this species, like the former, retires into subterraneous retreats, and passes that season in a state of torpidity, from which it recovers in the spring, when it casts its skin, and appears in its highest beauty.

DUN SNAKE.

Coluber Elaphis. *C. gilvus, supra lineis quatuor longitudinalibus nigris, abdomine albido.*

Gilvous Snake, with four longitudinal black lines, and whitish abdomen.

Elaphis. *Aldrov. Serp. p. 266, 267. Jonst. Rept. t. V.*

La Quatre-Raies. *Cepede Serp. p. 163. pl. 7.f. 1.*

Abdominal scuta 218, subcaudal scales 73.

THOUGH this species has been pretty well figured in the work of Aldrovandus, and from

thence copied into that of Johnston, yet it appears to have been in a great degree unknown to modern naturalists till it was more distinctly described by the Count de Cepede, who informs us that it is found in some parts* of France, and measures near four feet in length: its colour is a very pale reddish brown, or dun, marked on each side the back, throughout the whole length, by two dusky or blackish longitudinal stripes, commencing on each side the head, which is covered with large scaly plates: the scales on the back are carinated, those on the sides smooth: the abdomen is pale or whitish: the tail measures about nine inches in length, and gradually tapers to the extremity: the general form of the animal resembles that of the common snake, but it is somewhat thicker in proportion to its length: it is a perfectly harmless species; occurs in Italy as well as in France, and may probably be found in most of the warmer parts of Europe.

* According to Latreille, not uncommon in ci-devant Provence.

ÆSCULAPIAN SNAKE.

Coluber Æsculapii. C. rufus, linea utrinque laterali fusca, abdomine albedo fusco variato.

Rufous Snake, with a dusky lateral stripe on each side, and whitish abdomen variegated with brown.

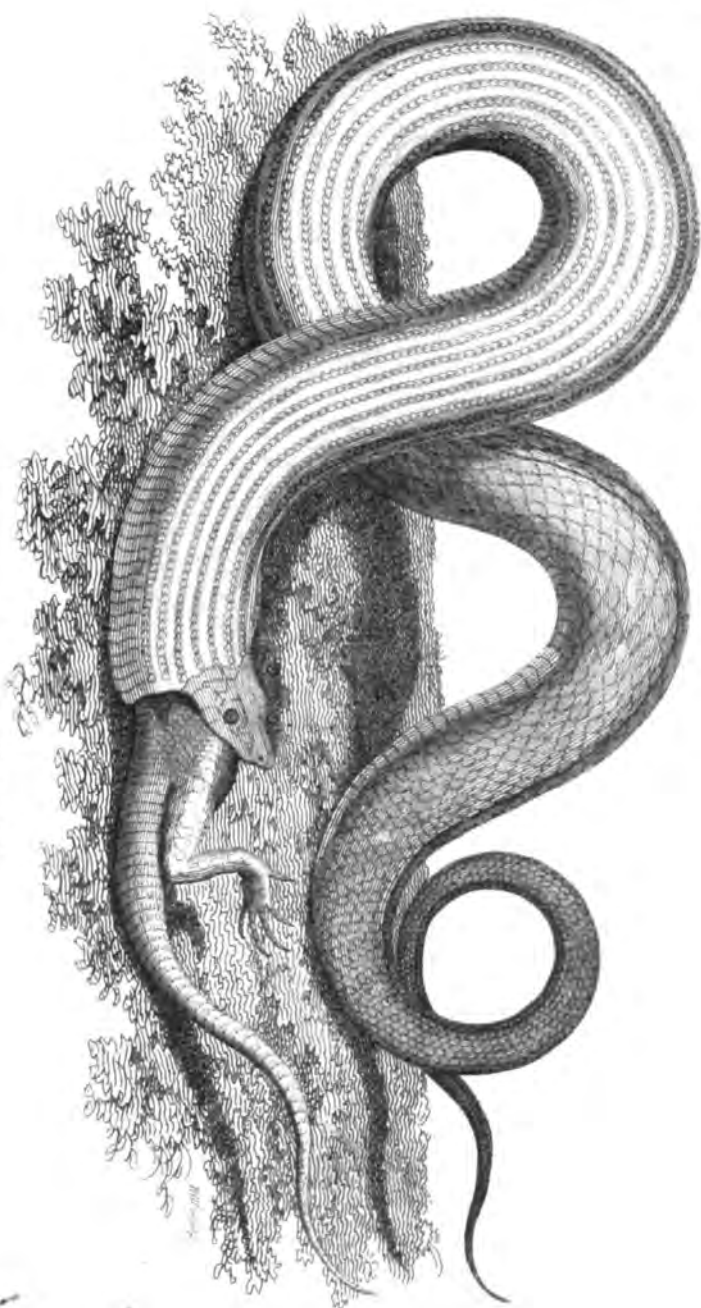
Anguis Æsculapii vulgaris. Aldrov. Serp. p. 270. Jonst. Serp. t. V.

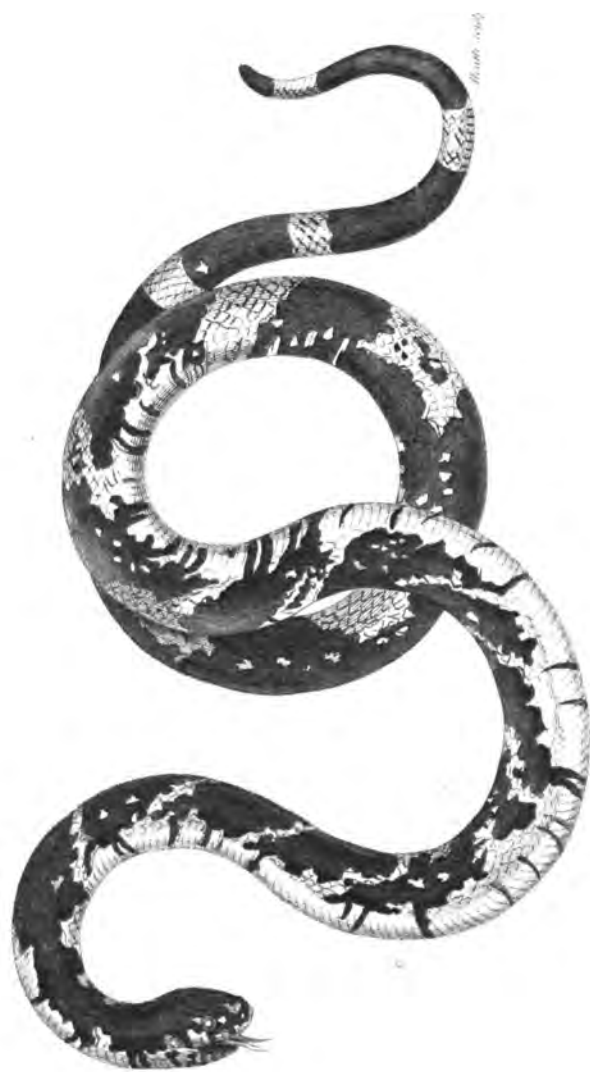
Le Serpent d'Esculape. Cope de Serp. p. 165. pl. 7. f. 2.

Abdominal scuta 175, subcaudal scales 64 pair.

THIS, says Cope, is common in most of the warm parts of Europe, and is no where more frequent than in the neighbourhood of Rome, and is probably the species peculiarly consecrated by the ancient Romans to the benevolent deity whose name it bears. Whether we admit this supposition or not, we must at all events acknowledge that Linnæus, with peculiar impropriety, applied the title of *Coluber Æsculapii* to an American species. The Snake intended by Cope is nearly four feet in length, and of a rufous colour on the upper parts, more or less deep in different individuals, the back being marked on each side by a dusky or blackish longitudinal band: the scales on the sides, nearest the scuta, are white bordered beneath with black, thus forming a range of small whitish triangles along each side the body: the head is rather large, and covered in front, as in the common snake, by scaly plates: the scales on the back are oval and carinated; those on the sides smooth: the tail measures about nine inches in length: in its general habit it is much allied to

C. F. M. A. L. G. N. L. N. A. M. W.





MORNING SNAKE

the Coluber Natrix or Ringed Snake, as well as to the Coluber Atrovirens. In its manners it is perfectly innocent. It has been long ago described and figured in the work of Aldrovandus under the same title by which it is distinguished by the Count de Ceppe.

MOURNING SNAKE.

Coluber Pullatus. *C. supra niger albo variatus, infra albus nigro variatus.*

Snake with the body black above, with white variegations, and white beneath with black variegations.

Coluber Pullatus. *Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 382.*

Abdominal scuta 217, subcaudal scales 208.

A LARGE species, often measuring six feet in length: habit rather slender than thick; the general proportions resembling those of the Coluber Natrix, except that the tail is somewhat less slender: head covered in front with large scaly plates; the remainder of the animal on the upper parts with large and slightly carinated scales: general colour black, with white variegations, often differently disposed in different specimens: abdomen commonly white, marked here and there with narrow black bars: sometimes the colours are so disposed that either the black or white might with equal propriety be termed the ground-colour: the head is generally white, and the lips barred with black. Several varieties of the Coluber pullatus appear to be figured in the work of Seba; though it can

hardly be admitted that all the figures quoted by Mr. Merrem, in his *Beytrage zur Naturgeschichte*, can properly be referred to this species. Among the most remarkable are the following, viz.

1. *Serpens ex Lybia*. Seb. 2. t. 15. This is entirely white, with a very few small jet-black oblong spots, very distantly scattered over the upper parts, and some narrow black streaks on the fore part of the abdomen.
2. *Serpens Americana elegantissima, maculis nigris notata*. Seb. 2. t. 22. It is milk-white, the scales, for about a third part of the whole length, being edged with black; thus constituting elegant black reticulations on that part of the animal: a very few small square black spots are also distantly scattered over the remainder of the body, and on the abdomen are a few dusky markings.
3. *Serpens Medock*. Seb. 2. t. 49. Milk-white, with reticular transverse black bars on the anterior part of the body, while the hind part is almost entirely of a dusky brown colour: the lips as in almost all the varieties, barred with black and white.
4. *Tojuqua*. Seb. 2. t. 105. A large snake; the fore parts variegated with black and white; the hind part black, with transverse bands of numerous small white spots.
5. *Serpens Esculapius Orientalis maximus*. Seb. 2. t. 86. Of a cinereous yellow, with broad deep-brown zones or surrounding bands;

the scales on the yellow parts being also tipped here and there with brown: this is said by Seba to be a native of Ceylon.

A more extraordinary variety, if Mr. Merrem's conjecture be right, is the *Coluber Petzcoatl*, Seb. 2. t. 84. It is of a fine yellow, with a pretty strong tinge of orange on the back, and several transverse bands of similar colour on different parts of the body: it is of large size, and is described as being very glossy or smooth, and as a native of Mexico, inhabiting hollow trees, &c. the back appears pretty strongly carinated.

If we were inclined to follow Mr. Merrem's example in thus extending supposed varieties, we might proceed a step farther, and refer the *Ana Candaja*, Seb. 2. t. 83. to the same species: its general proportions, and form of scales, are similar, but its colour is pale blue, with the abdomen white: it is a native of Ceylon, and is said to grow to a very large size, and to be able to kill cattle by strangling them.

VAR. 2.

THE *Coluber Haje* of Linnæus appears, from the short description given in the *Systema Naturæ*, to be so extremely nearly allied to the *pullatus* both in size and colour, as well as in the number of its scuta and squamæ, that it is impossible not to suppose it the same animal: yet the *Haje* is said by Forskal to be a poisonous species, which the *pullatus* is not.

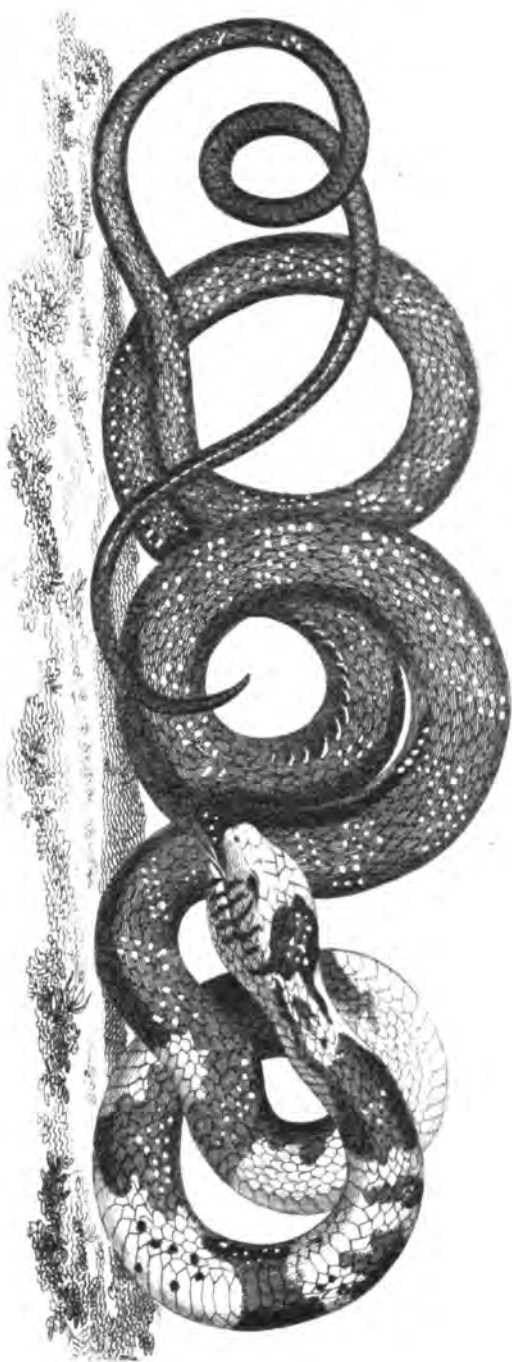
LARGE-SCALED SNAKE.

Coluber Macrolepidotus. *C. plumbeus, squamis dorsalibus maximis elongatis, abdomine albido fusco transversim fasciato.*

Lead-coloured Snake, with extremely large elongated dorsal scales, and whitish abdomen, with broad transverse bands.

DESCRIBED from a specimen in the Museum of Dr. William Hunter: general habit that of the *pul-latus*: size of a large *Natrix*: head covered with large scales: remainder of the upper parts with extremely large long scales, exceeding in proportional size those of any other known serpent; those near the ridge of the back, in particular, measure three quarters of an inch in length; their disposition is obliquely backwards: colour on the upper parts blueish, the black skin of the body appearing, as it were, to edge the scales with that colour: under parts blueish white, with extremely broad, brown, transverse bands at intervals, so that the abdomen may be described either as brown with white bands, or *vice versa*: tail of moderate length, taper, round, and covered with hexagonal scales: native place unknown.

1111. 1112. 1113. 1114. 1115.
Pituophis aberti



CARINATED SNAKE.

Coluber Carinatus. *C. plumbeus, squamis magnis ovatis porosis, abdomine albido, dorso carinato.*

Lead-coloured Snake, with large ovate porous scales, whitish abdomen, and carinated back.

Coluber carinatus. *Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 384.*

Abdominal scuta 157, subcaudal scales 115.

A LARGE species, growing to five or six feet in length, and of a moderate thickness: head rather small, with large scales in front: tail tapering gradually to a point: back much carinated, rising into a ridge on the top: colour deep blueish brown or cinereous, paler or whitish underneath: scales very large, and marked with numerous impressed points, as if pierced with pin-holes: under parts whitish: native of North America: a harmless species: varies as to colour, which is sometimes blueish black, and sometimes cinereous with a rufous cast: scales often pale or whitish towards the tips.

MOLURUS SNAKE.

Coluber Molurus. *C. crassus pallidus, maculis magnis irregularibus rufis margine fuscis variatus, cauda brevis.*

Thick-bodied pale Snake, with large irregular rufous variegations edged with brown, and short tail.

Coluber Molurus. *Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 387.*

Abdominal scuta 248, subcaudal scales 59.

A LARGE snake, with the general habit of a Boa rather than a Coluber, being of very considerable thickness in proportion to its length: head rather large; snout lengthened, like that of the Boa canina, and covered with large scales: tail short, gradually tapering to a point: colour of the whole animal whitish or grey, clouded with large irregular rufous variegations bordered with brown: under parts white. Native of India: not poisonous: grows to the length of five or six feet.

COPPER-BELLIED SNAKE.

Coluber Erythrogaster. *C. fuscus, abdomine cupreo.*

Brown Snake, with copper-coloured abdomen.

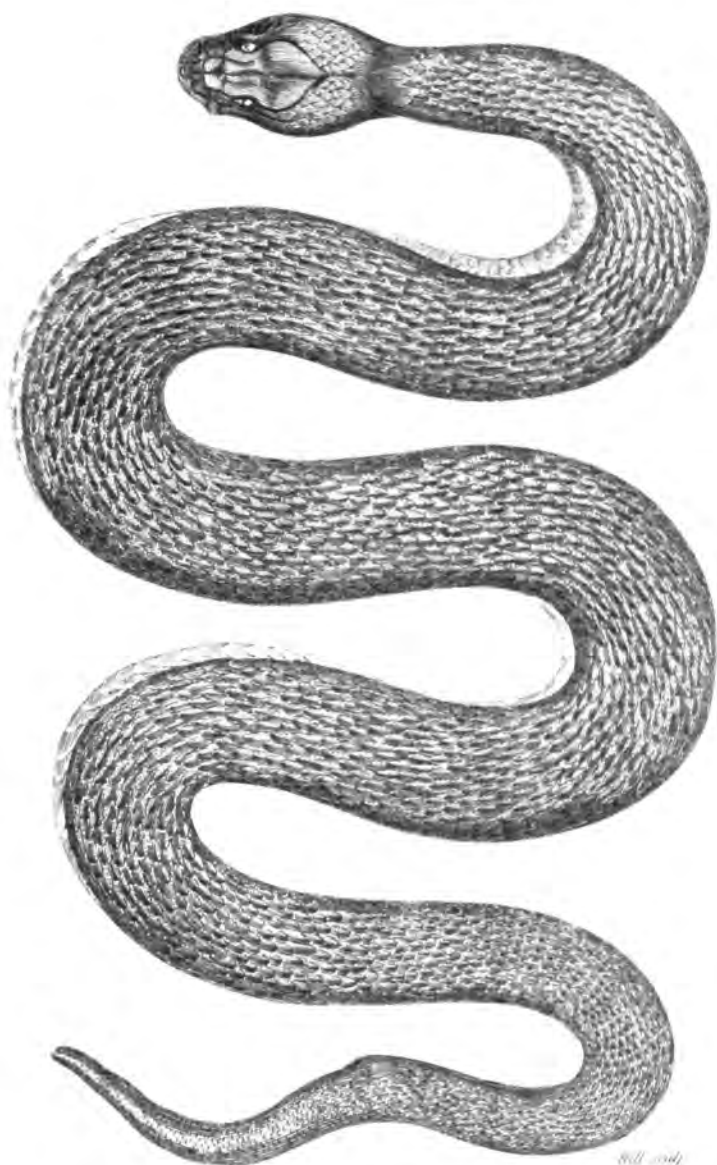
Coluber erythrogaster. *Forst. Catal. Catesb. Carol. 2. t. 46.*

THE Copper-bellied Snake is a native of North America, and is thus described by Catesby in his History of Carolina: "These snakes sometimes approach near to the size of the Rattle-Snake: they are of a brown colour, except their bellies, which are of a muddy red or copper colour: they frequent the water, and very probably prey on fish;

MOLDED REPTILES



COTTER-BELLIED SNAKE.



but birds and such other animals as they are able to overcome they devour; frequently entering the houses of poultry, sucking the eggs, and devouring the fowls: they are bold, nimble, and active, but are generally reputed not venomous, and have no fangs like the viper kind. I never observed their colours to vary." Mr. Catesby's figure represents the head covered with large scales: and the tail remarkably thick, short, and obtuse.

CUPREOUS SNAKE.

Coluber Acontia. *C. cupreus, squamis albo carinatis, abdomine flavo rubro maculato.*

Copper-coloured Snake, with the scales carinated by a white line, and abdomen yellow with red spots.

Serpens Acontias, sive Jaculus Americanus, &c. *Seb. 2. t. 64. f. 1.*

IN its general appearance this snake, according to Seba's figure, bears a considerable resemblance to the Copper-belly of Catesby, but the head is larger, and covered with small scales, the neck thinner, and the tail somewhat more taper: the whole upper parts are of a light copper colour, each scale marked by a white streak or carina: the abdomen is yellow, spotted on the edges with small red specks. From the size of the head, and its being covered with small scales, it should seem that this is a poisonous species. It is a native of the island of Santa Cruz.

SURINAM SNAKE.

Coluber Surinamensis. C. cinereus, sultus subflavescens, corpore fasciis ferrugineis subundulatis transverses cincto.

Cinereous Snake, yellowish beneath, with the body surrounded by somewhat undulated transverse ferruginous bands.

Anguis Surinamensis sonum edens. Seb. 2. t. 59. f. 2.

AN elegant species: length about three feet and a half: habit moderately stout or thick: head rather large, and furnished with largish scales in front: colour of the whole animal cinereous, marked from the neck to the end of the tail with moderately broad, equidistant, and somewhat undulated rufous-yellow bands or zones entirely surrounding the body: tail of moderate length, gradually tapering to the extremity: said to be a native of Surinam: allied in habit to the *Coluber angulatus*.

 CORN SNAKE.

Coluber Carolinianus. C. flavescens, maculis magnis ferrugineis albo nigroque marginatis, abdomine nigro variato.

Yellowish Snake, with large ferruginous spots with black and white margins; and abdomen variegated with black.

Corn Snake. *Catesb. Carol. 2. pl. 55.*

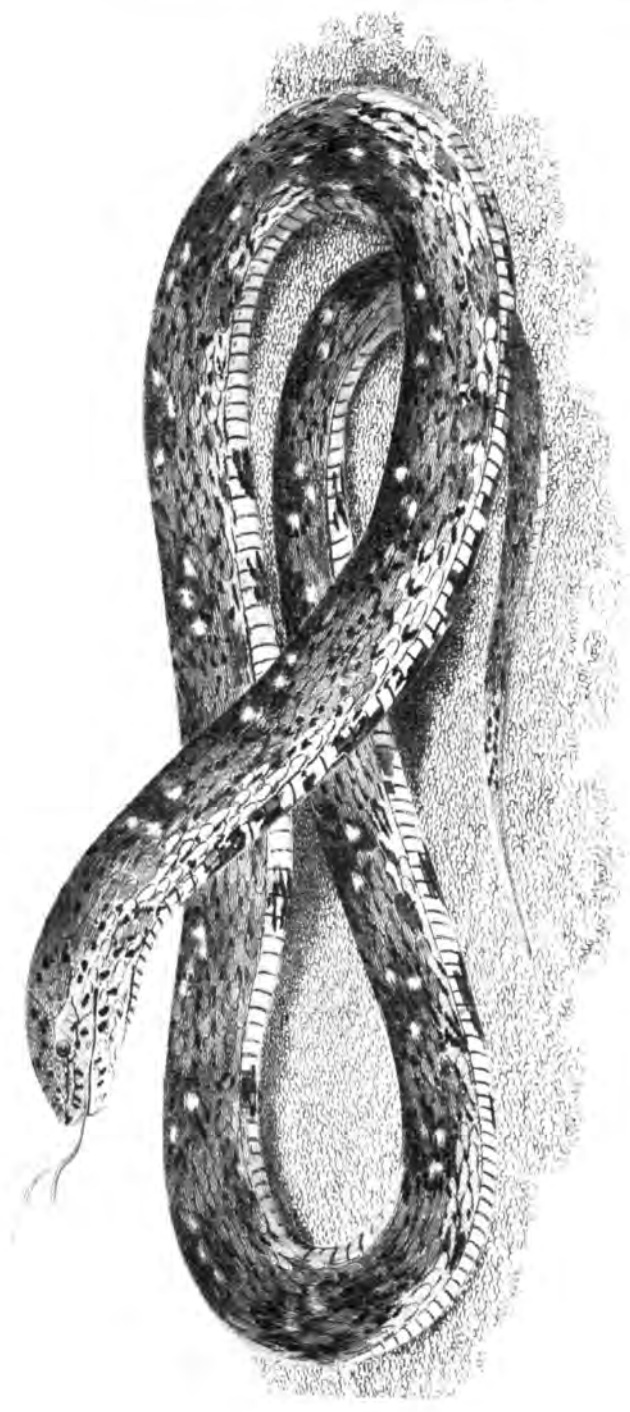
THIS is a highly beautiful animal, arriving sometimes at a very considerable size, and measuring five feet or more in length, though commonly seen much smaller. Its habit or genera



STRIPED SNAKE.

From a drawing by J. G. Cooper.

THE SNAKE



form resembles that of the *Natrix*, or common English Snake, and its general colour is pale whitish yellow, ornamented on the upper parts with numerous large and somewhat irregular ovate patches of very bright ferruginous, bordered with black or deep brown, with a few small white spots intermixed: these spots or patches are largest on the back, and smallest on the sides, where they are accompanied by still smaller specks of black: the under parts are whitish, tinged with yellow, and varied here and there by irregularly angular blackish patches. Like most other snakes, it appears more or less brilliantly coloured at different periods, and is most beautiful after having cast its skin: the ground-colour is sometimes suffused with a tinge of purple, which adds a peculiar beauty to its appearance. It is of an innocent nature, and is principally found in woods. It is a native of North America, and in particular of Carolina. Mr. Catesby describes it under the name of the Corn Snake, which he tells us is given it from a fancied resemblance of its colour to those of some kinds of Indian corn or maize. It is, according to Catesby, "a great robber of hen-roosts." His figure represents it as of a subferruginous yellow, with reddish brown dorsal spots and variegations. It is sometimes called by the name of the Beech Snake. The *Compressed Snake* of Mr. Merrem, 2. pl. 11. appears much allied to this in general appearance.

TEXTILE SNAKE.

Coluber Textilis. C. griseo-flavescens, nigro irroratus, fasciis numerosis undulatis rubro-ferrugineis transversis.

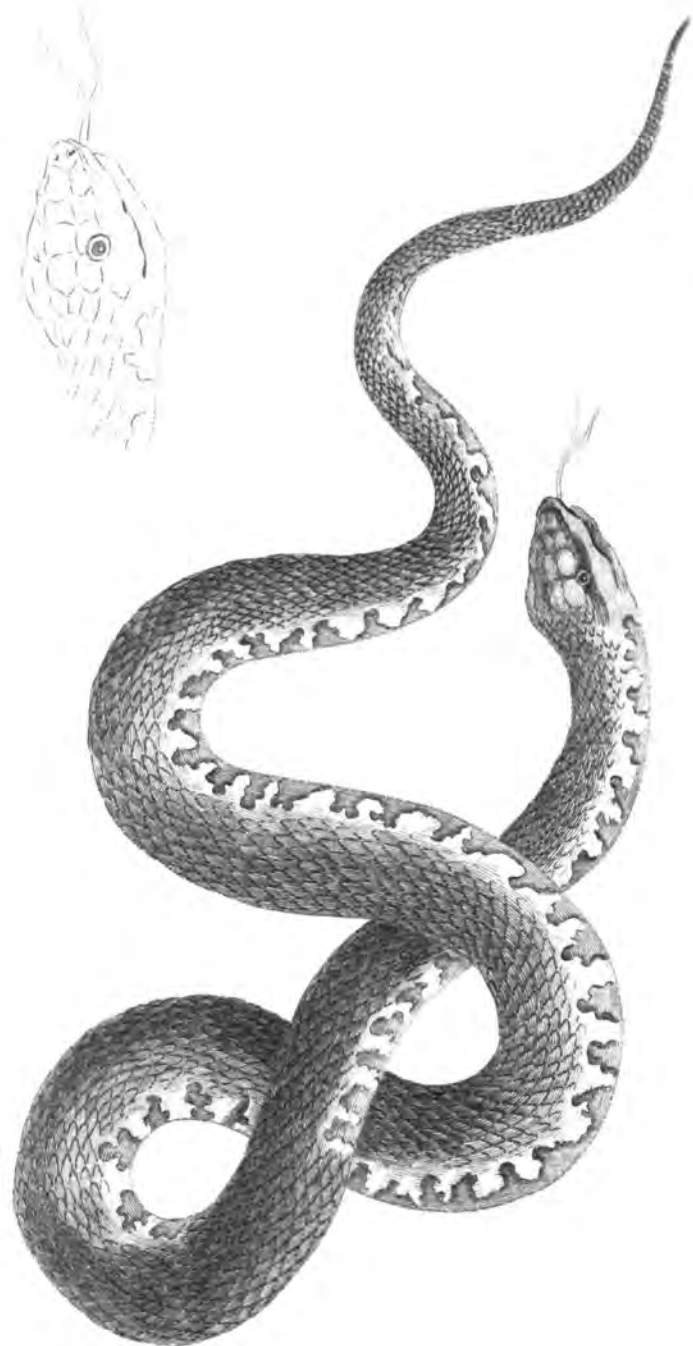
Yellowish-grey Snake, freckled with black, and marked by numerous, undulated, transverse, bright-ferruginous stripes.

Serpens Brasiliensis textilis. Seb. 2. t. 67. f. 3.

Serpens Surinamensis elegans. Seb. 2. t. 31. f. 1.

Serpens Ammodytes Americana flammifera. Seb. 2. t. 31. f. 2.

A RATHER large and very elegant species, represented on some of Seba's plates, but not referrible to any Linnæan species: general habit that of the *Natrix*: ground colour yellowish grey, with numerous, pretty closely-placed, transverse, irregularly angular bands of bright ferruginous or dusky red, scattered over, as is also the ground-colour, with numerous black specks of different sizes: head rufous, covered with large scales: under parts throughout the whole length pale yellow: tail very slender and sharp-pointed: native of Brasil, Surinam, and other parts of South America.



WAMPUM SNAKE.

Coluber Fasciatus. C. cæruleus, subtus pallidior cæruleo lucidiore variatus.

Blue Snake, paler and variegated with brighter blue beneath.

Wampum Snake. *Catesb. Carol. 2. pl. 58*

Coluber fasciatus? *Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 378.*

Fasciated Snake. *Nat. Misc. vol. 8. pl. 266.*

Abdominal scuta 128? subcaudal scales 67?

THIS, which is one of the handsomest of the North American snakes, is described and figured by Catesby, but as that author lived at a period when the rules of modern natural history were in a great degree unknown, he seems to have given a general rather than a minutely accurate representation of the animal; his figure not expressing the abdominal and subcaudal scuta and squamæ. The Wampum Snake, he informs us, is of a dark blue above, the belly being finely clouded with brighter blue: the head small in proportion to the body: he adds, that it is an innocent species, and sometimes grows to the length of five feet, retaining its colours and marks throughout all periods of its growth. It receives its common title of the Wampum Snake from its colours, which resemble those of the strings of Indian money called Wampum, composed of shells cut into regular pieces, and strung with a mixture of blue and white. It is a native of Carolina and Virginia.

BLACK SNAKE.

Coluber Constrictor. *C. totus niger, lucidus, longissimus*,

Shining-black Snake, with very long slender body.

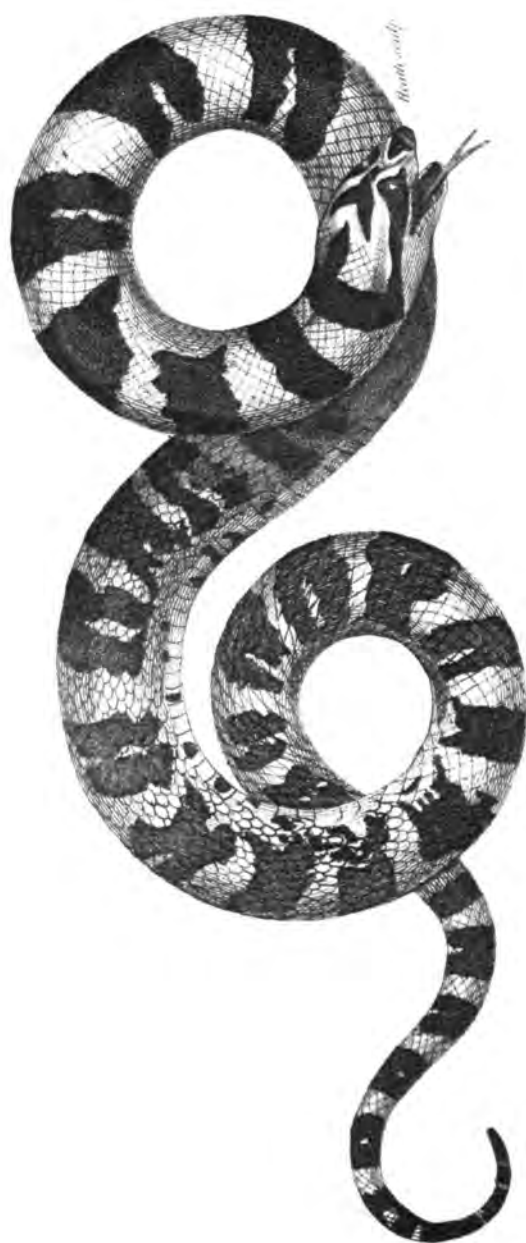
Black Snake. *Catesb. Carol. 2. pl. 48.*

Coluber Constrictor. *Linn. Syst. Nat. p. 385.*

Abdominal scuta 186, subcaudal scales 92.

"THIS," says Catesby, "is a large and very long snake; some being six feet in length: they are all over of a shining black, never changing their colour, and are very nimble and beneficial in killing rats, which they pursue with wonderful agility to the roofs and all parts of houses and barns, where rats are able to run, for which service they are preserved by most of the inhabitants: they are bold and furious, leaping at and biting those that attack them, though no harm ensues; their bite not being venomous: it is commonly said in Carolina that they will attack and swallow Rattle-Snakes: it is certain most or all snakes will devour one another, not only of their own but of other kinds, which I have often seen; one, after a long struggle, swallowing another but little less than itself. They are the most numerous of all snakes."

"Many ridiculous, frights," says Mr. Pennant, "have happened from this innocent reptile. As every one in America is full of the dread of the Rattle-Snake, they are apt to fly at the sight of any of the serpent kind. This pursues, soon overtakes, and twisting round the legs of the fugitive,



VIPER-HERPES-SNAKE

soon brings him to the ground; but he happily receives no hurt, but what may result from the fright; all the mischief this species does is to the housewives, for it will skim their milk-pans of the cream, and rob their hen-roosts of all the eggs."

—*Arct. Zool. Append. p. 92.*

VIPER-HEADED SNAKE.

Coluber Viperinus. C. albido-griscus, fasciis transversis nigricantibus apice bifidis macula capitis bifurcata nigra, abdomine utrinque fusco maculato.

Pale-grey Snake, with blackish brown transverse bands, bifid towards their extremities, head marked by a bifurcated black spot, and sides of the abdomen spotted with brown.

Abdominal scuta 166, subcaudal scales 87.

THIS species is described by Seba, and is an animal of considerable elegance: its length is about three feet: its habit moderately slender, yet strong, and its colour very pale grey or whitish, fasciated throughout its whole length, by nearly equidistant black or very deep-brown bands, which, as in the Linnæan *Coluber Æsculapii*, are divided beneath about half way upwards by a narrow white stripe: the head is covered in front with large scales, and marked on the top by a black patch of similar form to that on the head of the Viper, except that the two divisions are more acute: on each side the head, across the eyes, is a longitudinal black stripe, communicating with the first dorsal bar; and the tip of the nose is also

the same colour: on the abdominal scuta are scattered a few small blackish or dusky spots of different size and shape: the skin is smooth and glossy. Seba considers this snake as a kind of Viper, but, according to the observations of Mr. Merrem, it is destitute of fangs, and is consequently an innocuous species. It is a native of America.

PLICATILE SNAKE,

Coluber Plicatilis. C. fusco-flavescens, subtus pallidus, fascia utrinque laterali fusco-ferruginea albido maculata.

Yellowish-brown Snake, pale beneath, with a lateral dusky stripe on each side the body marked by a row of white spots.

Coluber plicatilis. Jan. Syst. Nat. p. 376. Mus. Ad. Frid. p. 23.

Serpens Bali-Salan-Boekit. Seb. 1. t. 57. f. 5.

Abdominal scuta 131, subcaudal scales 46.

A MODERATELY large species, generally measuring between two and three feet, or more, in length: colour yellowish brown, with a dusky, and sometimes reddish, lateral stripe immediately above the scuta, formed by a row of confluent dusky spots with white centres: abdomen pale, marked with three, and sometimes four, rows of small dusky spots: head covered in front with large scales: snout obtuse: tail thick, and rather obtuse. The specimen of this snake described by Linnæus in the *Museum Adolphi Friderici* seems to have been rather small. The Count de Ceppe informs us, that the specimen in the King of

France's Museum measured more than six feet in length.

CHAIN SNAKE.

Coluber Getulus. *C. nigro-violaceus, fasciis angustis transversis distantibus luteis, super latera bifidis, in abdomine tessellatis.*

Blackish-violet Snake, with narrow, distant, transverse, gold-coloured bands, divaricating on the sides, and tessellated on the abdomen.

Coluber Getulus. *Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 382.*

Chain Snake. *Catesb. Carol. 2. pl. 52.*

Abdominal scuta 215, subcaudal scales 44.

ONE of the most elegant of the North American snakes, as well as the most singular in its pattern: its general length is about three feet, and its proportions nearly those of the common English Snake: the colour of the whole animal is an extremely deep violet, so dark as to appear black on a cursory view, while throughout the whole length, from the head to the end of the tail, are regularly disposed numerous, equidistant, transverse rings or narrow bands of a bright yellow colour, each dividing on the sides before it passes under the abdomen, and being of an irregularly angular outline, more especially on the abdomen, which, in consequence, appears as if tessellated with square yellow spots: the head is small, of a somewhat angular shape, and covered in front, as in most other innocent snakes, with large scales: the tail is of moderate length, measuring about a fifth part of the whole, and gradually tapers

to the extremity. This snake is found in Carolina, Virginia, &c. frequenting moist woods, and shady places, and preying on Lizards, &c. In the British Museum is a large specimen which appears to have been taken in the act of swallowing a pretty large lizard (*Ameiva*), and in consequence of which the jaws are full as much dilated as those of the *Coluber corallinus* figured in a similar situation by Seba, and represented also in the present work.

BROAD-NOSED SNAKE.

Coluber Platurinus. C. albus fusco-maculatus, corpore fasciis latis fuscis annulato.

White Snake, spotted with brown, and annulated with broad brown zones.

Serpens Guineensis rarissima Millio dicta. Seb. 2. t. 83. f. 3?

A HANDSOME species: habit somewhat resembling that of the *Col. Natrix*, but the tail rather more slender in proportion: back slightly carinated, sides somewhat sloping, and abdomen flattish: colour of the whole animal an equal variegation of broad blackish-brown and white bands, equidistant from each other, and entirely surrounding the respective parts: the white bands are spotted with black: head rather large than small, covered with large scales of a black-brown colour, elegantly separated from each other by intervening white spaces, so that the head appears marked with large black spots on a white ground:

nose abrupt or truncated: tail very long, slender, and gradually tapering to the extremity: length of the whole animal about three feet and a half: scales of moderate size, ovate, and not carinated. Described from a specimen in the Museum of Dr. William Hunter. Native country unknown.

FULVOUS SNAKE.

Coluber Fulvus. *C. fulvus, fusco maculatus, corpore fasciis nigris annulato, cauda brevissima.*

Fulvous Snake, spotted with brown, and annulated with blackish zones, with very short tail.

Coluber fulvus. *Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 381.*

Abdominal scuta 218, subcaudal scales 31.

VERY much allied in the disposition of its colours to the preceding; the body being marked by alternate black and yellowish zones, the yellowish parts spotted with ferruginous: length about a foot and half: tail very short, being scarcely more than a twelfth of the whole length: the head is brown above, and covered with large scales. Native of North America.

SHORT-TAILED SNAKE.

Coluber Brachiurus. *C. ferrugineus, subtus albido-flavescens, squamis subhexagonis, cauda obtusa brevissima.*

Ferruginous Snake, yellowish white beneath, with subhexagonal scales, and extremely short obtuse tail.

Coluber albus? *Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 378. Mus. Ad. Frid. p. 24. t. 14. f. 1.*

Stumpfschwänzige Natter. *Merrem Beyr. 2. p. 36. t. 37.*

Abdominal scuta 170, subcaudal scales 26.

DESCRIBED from a specimen in the Museum of Dr. William Hunter. Length about a foot and half: habit resembling that of the genus *Anguis*: head of similar diameter with the neck and body, but slightly tapering at the nose, and covered in front with large scales: those on the remainder of the upper parts all hexagonal, and rather large in proportion to the size of the animal: colour ferruginous brown, the skin appearing between the scales: beneath yellowish white: scuta narrow: tail extremely short, scarce measuring two inches, and tapering pretty suddenly to an obtuse point. Native country unknown.

This seems to be the species described and figured by Mr. Merrem under the title of *Stumpfschwänzige Natter*, and which he, with great probability, supposes to be the *Coluber albus* of Linnæus, the description in the *Museum Adolphi Frederici* agreeing in all particulars except that of colour, and it appears pretty clearly that Linnæus

must have described a specimen which had lost its colour by being long preserved in spirits. Its native country, according to Linnæus, is India.

BLUE-GREEN SNAKE.

Coluber Viridissimus. C. cæruleo-viridissimus, dorso subpurpurascente, abdomine subalbente, scutis medio dilatatis.

Vivid blue-green Snake, with a tinge of purple on the back, and whitish abdomen with the scuta dilated towards the middle.

Coluber viridissimus. Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 388. Mus. Ad. Frid. 2. p. 46.

Serpens Surinamensis Flosculus dictus. Seb. 2. t. 67. f. 1, 2.

Serpens Americana cærulea Dipsas dicta? Seb. 2. t. 3. f. 2.

Abdominal scuta 217, subcaudal scales 122.

A VERY elegant species, of middling size, growing to the length of about three feet : head slightly obtuse, of moderate size, covered with very large scaly plates : remainder of the upper parts with ovate scales : colour of the whole animal a very fine strong blue-green, with a suffusion of purple combined, especially towards the back : abdomen pale or whitish green : tail of moderate length, and slender. Linnæus observes that the abdominal scuta are of a wider or more dilated form in the middle than in other snakes : the colour appears to vary, so as to exhibit more or less of the blue tinge, which sometimes becomes the predominant colour, and in such specimens the abdomen is paler or whiter than in others. There can be little doubt but that the specimens figured on plate 67

of the second volume of Seba, under the name of *Flosculus*, are of this kind; the colour being pale blue, with a slight tinge of violet down the back, and the abdomen white. This beautiful snake is a native of Surinam, and is a harmless species.

LUTRIX SNAKE.

Coluber Lutrix. *C. plumbeus, dorso aurantio, abdomine flavo.*

Lead-coloured Snake, with orange-coloured back and yellow abdomen.

Coluber Lutrix. *Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 275.*

Serpens eximia Africana crocea, fronte albo. *Seb. 2. t. 86. f. 5.*

Duberria. *Seb. 2. t. 1. f. 6?*

Abdominal scuta 134, subcaudal scales 27.

THIS is a small but elegant Snake, usually measuring nine or ten inches or near a foot in length, and being rather thick in proportion: the colour is described by Linnæus as yellow above and beneath, and blueish on the sides: he quotes, however, no figure as a representative of the species, but it is probably the *Serpens eximia Africana crocea fronte albo* of Seba, vol. 2. pl. 86. f. 5. which is said by that author to be of an orange-colour above, with the upper part of the head and the abdomen white. It also seems to be the *Duberria* of the same author, figured at pl. 1. f. 6. which is described as blue above, with a middle range of small red specks, brown on the sides, and cinereous yellow beneath, and supposed by Seba to be a native of Ceylon, as the orange-

coloured one was of Africa. Linnæus assigns India as the native country of his animal. It probably varies in colour, a specimen in the British Museum being entirely of a lead-colour above, and white beneath: the scuta very narrow, and forming a white vitta or band down the whole under part of the animal, edged on each side by a line of subtrigonal black spots with descending points; the whole agreeing most accurately with the first-mentioned figure in Seba, though differing as to colours. To this I may add, that in Sir Hans Sloane's copy of that work, now in the British Museum, the above figure is coloured as in the specimen just mentioned, in opposition to the printed description of the author, in which there may probably have been some mistake.

VAR. ?

Schmahlbauchigte Natter. *Merrem Beytr.* 1. p. 7. t. 1.

THIS, which is described and figured by Merrem, is perhaps no other than a variety of the Lutrix, differing only in having the tail rather more obtuse than in the Seba figures above mentioned: its colour is said by Merrem to be pale chocolate-brown above, blueish on the sides, and yellow on the abdomen: the abdominal scuta 117, and the subcaudal scales 38.

GRAPHIC SNAKE.

Coluber Graphicus. C. cinereus, supra lineis nigricantibus characteriformibus notatus, abdomine pallido fusco variato.

Cinereous Snake, marked above with blackish characteriform lines, and pale abdomen variegated with brown.

Serpens de Mocuio Americana. *Seb. 2. t. 75. f. 3.?*

Abdominal scuta 143, subcaudal scales 73.

Size of *Berus*: colour above glaucous, with a tinge of ferruginous, and marked all over the back and sides with narrow black characteriform streaks in different directions, and edged on their exterior side with small longitudinal whitish marks, the edges of the scales being of that colour: abdomen pale or white, the edges or sides of the scuta (and in some parts the middle) marked with large square blackish-brown patches: tail long and slender, abdomen separated from the upper parts by a very distinct side-line: head scarce larger than the neck, of a longish form, and covered with large scales: behind each eye a large and long triangular dark patch, including an oval white one: described from a specimen in the British Museum. It also occurs in the Museum of Dr. Hunter.

COACH-WHIP SNAKE.

Coluber Flagellum. *C. longissimus, gracillimus, fuscus, abdomine pallido.*

Extremely long, slender, brown Snake, with pale abdomen.

Coach-Whip Snake. *Catesb. Carol. 2. pl. 54.*

THIS is a very long and slender species, measuring from four to six feet or more in length: its colour is an uniform dusky brown, palest beneath: it is, according to Catesby, its first describer, "very active and nimble, running very swiftly: inoffensive, yet the Indians report, not without gaining many proselytes to their silly belief, that it will, by a jerk of its tail, separate a man in two parts." It is a native of North America, and not uncommon in Carolina and Virginia.

 CENCHOA SNAKE.

Coluber Cenchoa. *C. albidus gracilis, fasciis transversis rhombæatis fuscis, capite subgloboso.*

Slender whitish Snake, with transverse rhomboidal brown bands, and subglobose head.

Coluber Cenchoa. *Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 389.*

Anguis de *Cenchoatl* Americanus. *Seb. 2. t. 16. f. 2, 3.*

Abdominal scuta 210, subcaudal scales 124.

A REMARKABLE species, growing sometimes to the length of three or even four feet, yet scarcely exceeding the thickness of a swan quill: head very large, and nearly globular: neck extremely

thin: tail very long, measuring near a third part of the whole animal, and gradually tapering to the extremity: colour white or yellowish, marked throughout the whole upper part from head to the end of the tail, with numerous transverse rhomboidal bars or patches of brown, the points descending on each side.

CLOUDED SNAKE.

Coluber Nebulatus. *C. subflavescens maculis irregularibus fuscis nebulatus, abdomine pallido fusco maculato.*

Yellowish Snake, clouded with irregular brown spots, with pale abdomen speckled with brown.

Coluber nebulatus. *Lia. Syst. Nat.* p. 388.

Serpens Ceilonica maculata. *Seb. 1. t. 100. f. 4.*

Serpens Dipsas lentiginosa Amboinensis. *Seb. 2. t. 44. f. 2?*

Abdominal scuta 185, subcaudal scales 81.

SIZE moderate, measuring about two feet in length: habit rather slender: head rather large, and covered with large scales: tail of middling length, tapering rather suddenly from the body, and gradually decreasing to the tip: colour of the whole animal yellowish brown, clouded with irregular deep-brown or blackish variegations, forming a sort of bands nearly surrounding the body, with smaller spots and frecklings intermixed: under parts pale, speckled with brown: native of America: well figured in the work of Seba. The *Coluber Zeylonicus*, of the Gmelinian edition of the *Systema Naturæ* can hardly be considered as distinct from the present species.

ORNAMENTED SNAKE.

Coluber Ornatus. C. nigerrimus, maculis albis flosculosis abdomine albo.

Jet-black Snake, with white flower-shaped spots and white abdomen.

Serpens Jaculus Amboinensis perelegans. Seb. 2. t. 7. f. 1.

Serpens Ceilanica pomposa veste ornata. Seb. 2. t. 61. f. 2.

Serpens Ceilonica elegantissima. Seb. 1. t. 94. f. 7.

A VERY elegant and singular species: habit long and flagelliform; measuring about three feet or more in length: colour of the upper parts jet black, with white variegations, of which those on the head and fore parts, for the length of a few inches, generally consist of transverse white bars, while those on the remainder are disposed into the form of rounded or ovate spots of different sizes, and representing either rosaceous or tetrapetalous flowers scattered over the surface, and accompanied by smaller simple spots and specklings: abdomen white: head rather small than large, and of a longish form: tail rather long, slender, and tapering to a sharp point: native of some of the West-Indian islands, Martinico, &c. and, according to Seba, of the East-Indian islands also, as Ceylon and Java. The pattern varies a little in different individuals, but the general appearance is very similar in all.

VAR. ?

SEBA describes and figures a snake extremely allied to the above in general appearance and proportions, but of very different colours; the ground-colour being a yellowish green, with the upper parts not variegated with floscular spots, but by numerous, short, double, red, transverse bands: a snake of this kind is preserved in the British Museum, but, from having been long preserved in spirits, exhibits only a yellowish white ground-colour with dusky variegations. See Seba 2. t. 56. f. 1.

PINTADO SNAKE.

Coluber Meleagris. *C. niger, albo confertim punctatus, abdomine albo.*

Black Snake, thickly speckled with white, and with white abdomen.

Serpens Ceilonica excellentissima eleganter picta. *Seb. 2. t. 32. f. 2.*

Serpens Babylonica Cenchrus dicta. *Seb. 2. t. 52. f. 3.*

Serpens Hispalensis frontem præ se ferens venustissimam. *Seb. 2. t. 56. f. 2.*

ALLIED in some degree to the preceding, but a perfectly distinct species: habit long and slender, measuring about two feet in length: colour above jet black, marked in a rhomboid pattern with numerous small roundish white specks, regularly disposed by fours over the whole upper surface, till

the commencement of the tail, where they become single, and are scattered over that part to the tip: abdomen white: head rather small and short, but rather sharp-snouted: white, with black variegations, a stripe passing across the nose, and a second across the eyes: the beginning of the neck, or rather the back part of the head, marked by a pair of short longitudinal white streaks; tail of moderate length, tapering rather suddenly from the vent, and from thence gradually to the tip: described from a beautiful specimen in the Leverian Museum: Seba represents this species as a native of Ceylon, &c.

MILIARY SNAKE.

Coluber Miliaris. *C. fuscus, albo punctatus, abdomine albo.*

Brown Snake, speckled with white, and with white abdomen.

Coluber Miliaris. *Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 380.*

Abdominal scuta 162, subcaudal scales 59.

LENGTH about a foot and half: thickness of a finger: colour on the upper parts brown, each scale marked by a white spot: beneath white: head ovate, with glaucous scales blackish in the middle: lips marked by dusky streaks: tail about a fifth of the whole length, and not very slender: native of South America.

PEARLY SNAKE.

Coluber Perlatus. *C. perlaceus, capite caudaque thalassinis, vertice rubro.*

Pearl-coloured Snake, with sea-green head and tail; the former marked by a red spot.

Serpens ex Nova Hispania, a *J. Fabro Lynceo*, p. 774, delineata & descripta sub nomine Hispanico *Iztag*. *Seb. 2. t. 57. f. 2.*

LENGTH about two feet and a half: habit rather thick than slender, except towards the end of the tail, which gradually tapers to a very slender point: body pearl-coloured, the edges of the scales being black; thus forming reticular crossings of that colour: head large, of a sea-green colour, and covered with small scales, except about the nose, and between the eyes: on the top of the head a large deep red spot pointing backwards: tail of moderate length, sea-green, with a few distant, scattered black spots: abdomen grey; native of New Spain.

MARBLED SNAKE.

Serpens bucculenta Bæotica. *Seb. 2. t. 57. f. 3.*

LENGTH about three feet, and rather thick in proportion to its length: colour of the upper parts brown, variegated with white clouds: abdomen clouded in a similar manner: head rather thick, covered with large scales: those on the body ra-

ther large and of an ovate shape: tail about a third of the whole length, very thick at its origin, but gradually tapering to a slender point: native of Bœotia.

AMMOBATES.

Coluber Ammobates Africanus ex Guinea. Seb. 2. t. 78. f. 2.

LENGTH about three feet and a half, and moderately thick in proportion: colour a uniform deep blueish grey, both above and beneath, with a row of moderately distant, round, dusky spots on each side the body near the abdomen: head rather large, covered with large scales, and of a rufous brown above: the scales on the whole upper parts of the body and tail are rather large, of an ovate shape, and finely fimbriated on the edges; tail of moderate length, and tapering to the extremity, but not very slender: native, according to Seba, of Guinea.

CROSSED SNAKE.

Coluber Crucifer. *C. albus serie dorsal triplici macularum nigrarum, intermediis cruciatis.*

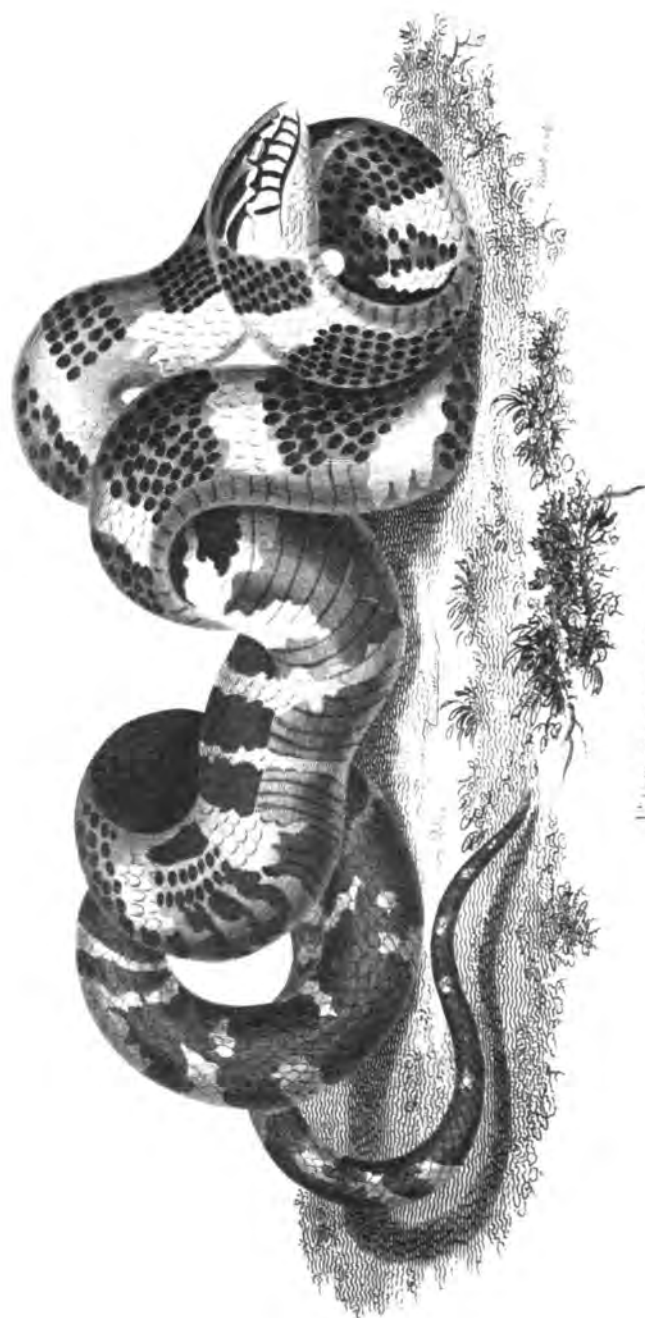
White Snake, with a triple dorsal series of black spots, those of the middle range cross-shaped.

Serpens Ceilonica crucifera. *Seb. 2. t. 12. f. 2.*

Perlfarbne Natter. *Merrem Beytr. 2. t. 9.*

Abdominal scuta 184, subcaudal scales 66.

A SMALLISH species, of about a foot and a half in length: head rather small, and covered with large scales: neck slender: body of moderate thickness: tail tapering gradually to the extremity, which is slightly pointed: colour of the whole animal white, with a pearly tinge, and marked along the back by a series of small black spots in the form of a St. Andrew's Cross: along each side is also a row of black spots, but less distinctly cross-shaped than those of the middle range: abdomen white, each fourth or fifth scutum being marked at its edge or juncture with the sides by a black spot: head marked by black sutures. This species is, according to Seba, a native of Ceylon.



PUFFIN SNAKE

PERUVIAN SNAKE.

Coluber Peruvianus. C. albo nigroque variatus, abdomine roseo.

Black-and-white Snake, with rose-coloured abdomen.

Serpens Peruviana elegantissima & rara. Seb. 2. t. 21. f. 1.

THIS highly elegant Snake is described by Seba, who informs us that it is a native of Peru, and a rare species in European collections: the upper part of the animal is variegated with black and white spots and marks; the sides tinged with yellowish red, while the belly or under part is of a light red or rose-colour: it is said to be an innocent species, and to be chiefly found in New Spain: it is one of those snakes which do not appear to be described by Linnæus, nor is the number of its scuta and squamæ known: its size seems to be nearly that of the common English Snake, but its form is rather thicker in proportion. Mr. Merrem considers it as a variety of the *Colluber pullatus*, but the peculiar form of its scales, and some other circumstances, seem to forbid this supposition. The original specimen itself seems to have been in the Linkian collection at Leipzig; since it is figured, apparently from the same drawing with Seba's, in the *Physica Sacra* of Scheuchzer, vol. 7. t. 630.

BANDED SNAKE.

Coluber Pethola. C. fusco-ferrugineus fasciis transversis angustis albidis, abdomine alido.

Ferruginous-brown Snake, with narrow transverse whitish bands, and whitish abdomen.

Coluber Pethola. Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 387.

Coluber petalarius. Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 387. Mus. Ad. Frid. p. 35. t. 9. f. 2?

Abdominal scuta 209, subcaudal scales 90.

LENGTH from two to four feet: colour brown or ferruginous above; pale or white beneath, the colour of the upper part being transversely divided at equidistant intervals by narrow stripes or lines of white running upwards from the abdomen across the back, and thus marking the brown upper part into so many extremely broad zones: head rather small, covered in front with large scales, and marked above by a large, oblong, brown patch: tail of moderate length, tapering to a fine point. This species occasionally varies as to the form of its zones, which in some specimens appear rather like rhomboid transverse patches. It is a native of Africa. The *C. Petalarius* of the *Mus. Ad. Frid.* can hardly be considered as a species distinct from this.

LEMNISCATED SNAKE.

Coluber Lemniscatus. *C. albo-flavescens, zonis triplicatis fusco-ferrugineis.*

Yellowish-white Snake, with triple ferrugineous-brown bands.

Coluber lemniscatus. *Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 286.*

Serpens, &c. *Seb. 2. t. 10. f. 4.*

Serpens annulatus, &c. *Seb. 1. t. 27. f. 4.*

Abdominal scuta 250, subcaudal scales 35.

THIS is a species of considerable elegance, being of a slender habit, and of a white or yellowish colour, marked throughout the whole length, at equal distances, by triple zones of black or deep brown entirely surrounding the body, and each separated from the next adjoining one by a narrow white stripe or line of the ground-colour: the head is rather small, covered with large scales and marked across the snout by a double zone, of which the smallest division passes across the nostrils, and the largest across the eyes: the tail is rather short, and gradually tapers to the tip: the whole animal is of a smooth or shining surface: it sometimes varies in the colour of its zones, which, in a specimen represented by Seba, are purple. It is a native of several parts of Asia.

LINNEAN SNAKE.

Coluber Linnæi. *C. albidus, zonis transversis nigris sub-bifidis, abdomine nigro variato.*

Whitish Snake, with black sub-bifid transverse zones, and abdomen variegated with black.

Coluber *Æsculapii*. *Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 380.*

Serpentis *Æsculapii* species. *Seb. 2. t. 18. f. 4. ?*

Serpens *Ceilanica*, &c. *Seb. 2. t. 76. f. 2.*

Abdominal scuta 180, subcaudal scales 43.

THIS is much allied in appearance to the *lemniscatus*, generally measuring about a foot and half, or two feet in length: its colour is pale or whitish, with a more obscure cast on the back, and is marked throughout by nearly equidistant black bands, each surrounding the body and divided half way up from the abdomen by a line or narrow stripe of the ground-colour; thus giving a bifid appearance to the lower part of each band: the abdomen is marked into black squares by the alternation of the bands beneath: the head is covered with large scales, and marked on the fore part by a transverse black zone running across the eyes, and at the hind part by a somewhat broader band: the tail is of moderate length, and gradually tapers to a somewhat obtuse point. This snake is a native of South America, but is also said to occur in some parts of Asia. It is by Linnæus termed *Coluber* *Æsculapii*, but since it is not very probable that it should have been the species dedicated to that deity by the ancients, there seems to be a

peculiar absurdity in the Linnæan trivial name, which is therefore purposely changed.

GLOSSY SNAKE.

Coluber Lubricus. *C. albus, zonis æquidistantibus nigris.*

White Snake, with equidistant black bands.

Coluber lubricus. *Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p. 1101.*

Anguis lubricus Africanus, &c. *Seb. 2. t. 43. f. 3.*

ALLIED to the *C. Æsculapii* and *lemniscatus*, but marked by single, equidistant, black bands: ground-colour white: head marked across the snout by a black band, and at the top by two oblique stripes nearly meeting at an angle in front: length about a foot and half: skin remarkably smooth and glossy: native, according to Seba, of Africa.

HYGEIAN SNAKE.

Coluber Hygeiæ. *C. albus, zonis subundulatis nigris, capite longitudinaliter nigro fasciato.*

White Snake, with subundulated black zones, and head fasciated longitudinally with black.

Serpens Siamensis tæniolis, &c. *Seb. 2. t. 34. f. 5.*

Hygiæns Natter. *Merrem Beytr. 1. p. 24. t. 6.*

A SMALLISH species, of a white colour, barred with numerous and somewhat irregular black bands nearly surrounding the body, and in some parts alternating: head small, large-scaled, and

marked by two broad longitudinal streaks uniting at the top of the snout: tail rather short and sharp-pointed. In the specimen described by Mr. Merrem a narrow dorsal reddish line is continued from head to tail, which is wanting in Seba's specimen. Native, according to Seba, of Siam.



DOMICELLA SNAKE.

Coluber Domicella. *C. albus, fasciis transversis numerosis nigris, subtus alternatim concurrentibus, linea abdominali nigricante.*

White Snake, with numerous jet-black transverse bands meeting beneath, and a blackish abdominal line.

Anguis bicolor elegantissimus Malabaricus. *Seb. 2. t. 54. f. 1.*

Coluber Domicella. *Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 376.*

Var. Coluber. picatus. *Nat. Misc. vol. 9. pl. 340.*

Abdominal scuta 118, subcaudal scales 60.

A VERY elegant and harmless species, of a slender habit in proportion to its length, measuring about two feet or two feet and a half in length, and about half an inch in diameter: colour milk-white, beautifully marked throughout the whole length by very numerous, equidistant, jet-black bands, attenuated on the sides, nearly meeting in an alternate manner under the abdomen, which is also marked by a continued wavy black line through the middle of all the scuta: head very small, covered with large scaly plates, and black, with a middle line of white at the back part: tail rather short, and gradually tapering to a point. Native of India: admirably figured in the work of Seba.

This species appears to vary considerably in the number of its *scuta* and *squamæ subcaudales*. It is pretended that the ladies in India sometimes carry this snake in their bosoms, and hence its trivial name *Domicella*.



CHEQUERED SNAKE.

Serpens Mexicana Petlacoatl dicta elegantissima. Seb. 2. t. 63. f. 1.

LENGTH about three feet or more: general proportions those of the *Natrix*: colour of the upper parts yellow, crossed obliquely by red lines, in such a manner as to divide the whole surface into numerous squares or lozenges, consisting of four scales each: head rather small, and oblong; covered in front with large red scales: tail of moderate length, and gradually tapering to a very slender extremity: abdomen cinereous-yellow, with a few smallish tessellated red patches here and there. Native of Mexico. In the general disposition of its markings this snake is much allied to the *Paragoodo*, pl. 20. of Dr. Russel's Indian Serpents (*Hydrus palustris*. Schneid.) but must be a different species.

BLACK-HEADED SNAKE.

Coluber Melanocephalus. *C. subfuscus, subfus albidus, capite nigro albo striato, fascia collari nigra.*

Brownish Snake, whitish beneath, with black head striped with white, and a black band over the neck.

Coluber melanocephalus. *Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 378. Mus. Ad. Frid. p. 24. t. 15. f. 2.*

Abdominal scuta 140, subcaudal scales 62.

A SMALL species, of about a foot and a half in length: colour pale brown, whitish beneath: head black, with white divisions or streaks on the top and sides, and immediately behind the head is a broad black collar. Native of America? This species appears to vary greatly in the number of its scuta and subcaudal scales.

 ANNULATED SNAKE.

Coluber Annulatus. *C. griseus, maculis dorsalibus rotundis fuscis pallido marginatis.*

Grey Snake, with round brown dorsal spots, with pale margins.

Coluber annulatus. *Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 386. Mus. Ad. Frid. p. 34. t. 8. f. 2.*

Vipera Virginiana maculis notata. *Seb. 1. t. 72. f. 6. and 2. t. 13. f. 2.*

Abdominal scuta 190, subcaudal scales 96.

LENGTH about two feet or more: colour grey, with the back marked by a longitudinal series of round or ovate deep brown spots surrounded with pale margins, and becoming occasionally con-

fluent, especially to some distance down the neck : head rather large than small, and covered with large scales : tail of moderate length, and gradually tapering. Native of America. Appears to vary greatly in the number of abdominal and subcaudal scales.



DIPSAS.

Coluber Dipsas. *C. cæruleus, subtus albidus, squamis margine albidis.*

Blue Snake, whitish beneath, with the scales whitish on the edges.

Coluber Dipsas. *Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 386.*

Abdominal scuta 152, subcaudal scales 135.

A RATHER small species : length about a foot and half or two feet : colour bright blue, paler beneath : scales, according to Linnæus, edged with white, and the tail, which is slender and sharp-pointed, marked beneath by a blueish suture : the head rather large, somewhat angulated, ovate-oblong, and obtuse : colour sometimes blueish green : native of Surinam, and said to be a poisonous species. This snake, being avowedly a native of America, is not very happily named by Linnæus ; the *Dipsas* of the ancients being an African Serpent.

NECKLACE SNAKE.

Coluber Monilis. *C. albidus, supra fasciis latis fuscis, collo supra maculis tribus albis.*

Whitish Snake, marked above by broad brown bands, and with three white spots on the neck.

Coluber Monilis. *Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 381.*

Abdominal scuta 164, subcaudal scales 82.

A SMALL species, measuring about a foot and half in length: colour whitish, banded throughout the whole length with very broad transverse brown zones: abdomen plain: head of moderate size, whitish, bordered with brown, and marked by three lengthened brown spots: on the upper part of the neck are three round white spots, forming as it were a half collar on that part: this species is a native of South America.

RING-BANDED SNAKE.

Coluber Doliatus. *C. lacteus, annulis dorsalibus ovatis, approximatis, nigris.*

Milk-white Snake, marked above by large, approximated, oval black rings.

Coluber doliatus. *Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 275.*

Magpie Snake. *Naturalist's Miscellany, vol. 7. pl. 254.*

Abdominal scuta 164, subcaudal scales 43.

A SMALL, but highly elegant, species: general length a foot and half, or two feet: colour milk-white, with a slight cast of cream-colour above, and marked down the whole length by large, oval, jet-black rings, the ends of which approaching

each other on the top of the back, give the appearance of double bars: in some specimens the sides of the body are marked by blackish spots between each of the oval rings. This is a perfectly harmless species, and is a native of Carolina and other parts of North America.

COBELLA SNAKE.

Coluber Cobella. *C. fuscus, fasciis transversis linearibus curvatis albidis, abdomine albo fasciis transversis fuscis.*

Brown Snake, with linear transverse whitish curved bands, and white abdomen with transverse brown bands.

Coluber Cobella. *Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 378.*

Serpentes *Cobellas* dictæ. *Seb. 2. t. 2. f. 5.*

Abdominal scuta 150, subcaudal scales 54.

A SMALL species: general length about ten or twelve inches: colour brown, with numerous curved or undulating, whitish, transverse, linear bands from head to tail: abdomen white or pale, with numerous, alternate, semi-transverse, dusky bands: head of middling size, covered with very large scales: tail thin and taper. This snake varies sometimes in colour, being blackish rather than brown, with similar whitish or pale markings.

ROUGH SNAKE.

Coluber Scaber. *C. griseus, fusco maculatus, squamis elevato-carinatis.*

Grey Snake, spotted with brown, with the scales carinated by a rising point.

Coluber Scaber. *Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 385. Mus. Ad. Foid. p. 36. t. 10. f. 1.*

Rauhe Natter. *Merrem. Beytr. 1. p. 34. t. 9.*

Abdominal scuta 228, subcaudal scales 44.

LENGTH about a foot and half: habit slender: head small, and marked at the back or neck with a few transverse streaks: the scales on the remainder of the animal small, and marked by a rising point on the back of each: thus causing a very perceptible roughness on the skin: colour grey, marked throughout with a triple row of somewhat irregularly rhomboid and alternate brown spots with paler centres: abdomen pale, and marked on the sides with minute characteriform brownish streaks: tail slender: native of India.

ALGERINE SNAKE.

Coluber Maurus. C. fuscus, lineis duabus dorsalibus nigris, lateribus nigro transversim fasciatis, abdomine atro.

Brown Snake, with two black dorsal lines, the sides transversely fasciated with black, and black abdomen.

Coluber maurus. Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p. 1098.

Abdominal scuta 152, subcaudal scales 66.

OF middle size: colour on the upper parts brown, with two black dorsal lines, from which descend on each side several black bands: abdomen black: native of Algiers.

HANNASCH.

SLIGHTLY described by Forskal, who tells us that it is entirely black, about a cubit in length, of the thickness of a finger, and that its bite excites a swelling, though no otherwise dangerous: native of Arabia.

RED-THROATED SNAKE.

Coluber Jugularis. C. niger, jugulo sanguineo.

Black Snake, with blood-red throat.

Abdominal scuta 195, subcaudal scales 102.

COLOUR entirely black, except the throat, which is blood-red: native of Ægypt: described by Hasselquist.

SIPEDON.

Coluber Sipedon. *Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 379.*

NATIVE of North America: observed by Kalm: colour entirely black, or deep brown: abdominal scuta 144, subcaudal scales 73.

 RED-SPOTTED SNAKE.

Coluber Coccineus. *C. niger, dorso flavo maculis rubris, abdomine pallido.*

Black Snake, with yellow back spotted with red, and pale abdomen.

Coluber coccineus. *Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p. 1097.*

Abdominal scuta 175, subcaudal scales 35.

LENGTH from two to three feet or more: habit rather slender: head small: ground-colour black, with about twenty-three bright red ovate or obtusely square spots along the back; the spaces between being yellow: belly pale: native of South America.

SPOTTED-SIDE SNAKE.

Coluber Ordinatus. C. caruleo-virescens, linea spinali albida, lateribus fusco-maculosis.

Blueish-green Snake, with whitish spinal line, and sides spotted with brown.

Coluber ordinatus. Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 379.

Green Spotted Snake. *Catesb. Carol. 2. pl. 53.*

Spotted Ribband Snake? *Catesb. 2. pl. 51.*

Abdominal scuta 138, subcaudal scales 72.

GENERAL length from two to three feet: colour blueish green, with blackish clouds and spots along the sides: ridge of the back whitish: native of Carolina.

WHITE-SKINNED SNAKE.

Coluber Candidus. C. candidus, maculis dorsalibus ovatis magnis fuscis.

White Snake, with large ovate brown dorsal spots.

Coluber Candidus. Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 384. Mus. Ad. Frid. p. 33. t. 7. f. 1.

Serpens Æculapii Brasiliensis. Seb. 2. t. 66. f. 3, 4.

Abdominal scuta 220, subcaudal scales 50.

HABIT rather slender: length from two to three or four feet, or more: colour milk-white, marked throughout with a row of very large, ovate, deep-brown, equidistant spots or patches: each of the white scales on the plain parts is also marked in the middle with a brown speck: head brown, and covered with large scales: tail of moderate length,

gradually tapering to the extremity: native of South America.

BROWN SNAKE.

Coluber Fuscus. C. cinereo-fuscus, abdomine pallido, macula postoculari fusca.

Cinereous-brown Snake, with pale abdomen, and brown spot behind the eyes.

Coluber fuscus. Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 388. Mus. Ad. Frid. p. 32. t. 17. f. 1.

Seb. 2. t. 71. f. 1. t. 72. f. 1. and t. 87. f. 1.

Abdominal scuta 149, subcaudal scales 117.

A MODERATELY large species, growing to four feet or more in length: colour cinereous brown, sometimes tinged with blueish, or with olive colour, or ferruginous: abdomen pale: head rather small than large, and marked behind the eyes with an oblong brown patch: tail about a fifth of the whole length, gradually tapering to a point. Native of several parts of Asia.

GREY SNAKE.

Coluber Canus. *C. canus, fasciis transversis obscuris, lateribus albo punctatis.*

Grey Snake, with obscure transverse brown bands, and sides speckled with white.

Coluber canus. *Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 382. Mus. Ad. Frid. p. 31. t. 11. f. 1.*

Abdominal scuta 188, subcaudal scales 70.

DESCRIBED by Linnæus in the Museum Adolphi Friderici: the specimen was about a foot long, and of scarcely a finger's thickness: head ovate, angular, and covered with large scales: body grey, with obscure brownish transverse bands, on each side of which are two white specks, thus constituting a row on each side the body near the abdomen: tail about a fifth of the whole length, slender, and round: native of South America.

 * CAPE SNAKE.

Serpens Africana annulata, ex promontorio Bonæ Spei. *Seb. 2. t. 46. f. 4.*

LENGTH about two feet: colour above pale blue, with numerous moderately distant, double, red bands, like those of the Linnæan *C. Æsculapii*, but narrower, surrounding the body: head small, covered with large scales, and marked by a broad red band passing across the eyes; at the back of the head by a much broader band: abdomen pale rufous: tail of moderate length, gradually tapering

to a sharp point: native, according to Seba, of the Cape of Good Hope.

ANGULAR SNAKE.

Coluber Angulatus. C. subfuscus, fasciis transversis lanceolatis nigricantibus, subtus alternatim concurrentibus.

Brownish Snake, with broad transverse lanceolate blackish bands, meeting alternately beneath.

Coluber angulatus. Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 377.

Serpens vel Sepedon Americanus. Seb. 2. t. 73. f. 19

Abdominal scuta 117, subcaudal scales 70.

LENGTH from two to three feet: colour pale brown, with broad, equidistant, transverse, blackish lanceolate fasciæ throughout the whole length, continued round the body, but in an irregular or alternating manner beneath the abdomen: head rather small, and covered with large scales; those on the rest of the body of moderate size, and disposed into about nineteen longitudinal rows; and as each scale is pretty strongly carinated, the body appears as it were polygonal or angular: tail of moderate length, and gradually tapering to the tip: native of the East Indies, according to Linnæus, but, if a snake described in Seba and quoted by Linnæus, be really the same species, it occurs also in South America: it is observed to vary considerably in the number of its abdominal and subcaudal scales.

CÆRULEAN SNAKE.

Coluber Cæruleus. C. cærulescens, squamis altero latere albis, abdomine albo.

Blueish Snake, with the scales white on one side, and white abdomen.

Coluber cæruleus. Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 377.

Abdominal scuta 165, subcaudal scales 24.

ALLIED in colour to the Linnæan *Dipsas*, being blue above, with the lower margin of the scales white: abdomen white: head of moderate size: tail rather short, slender, and tapering to the tip: general length about a foot and a half or two feet: native of South America.

 LIVID SNAKE.

Coluber Saturninus. C. lividus, fasciis angustis transversis cinereis.

Livid Snake, with narrow transverse cinereous bands.

Coluber Saturninus. Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 384. Mus. Ad. Frid. p. 32. t. 9. f. 1.

Abdominal scuta 147, subcaudal scales 120.

DESCRIBED by Linnæus in the Museum Adolphi Friderici: head broader than the body, depressed, oblong, lead-coloured: eyes very large: trunk livid, somewhat clouded above with narrow cinereous bands: tail round, and measuring about a third of the whole animal: a harmless species: native of South America: length about two feet: habit rather slender.

RED-BEAD SNAKE.

Coluber Guttatus. C. niger, dorso flavo maculis rubris, abdomine fusco variegato.

Black Snake, with yellow back spotted with red, and abdomen variegated with dusky.

Coluber Guttatus. Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 385.

Bead Snake. *Catesb. Carol. 2. t. 60.*

Abdominal scuta 227, subcaudal scales 60.

DESCRIBED by Catesby: general length about two feet, but grows to a much greater length: ground-colour black, deepest on the back and faintest on the belly, where it is disposed into a kind of squarish variegations: the upper part of the body is adorned with large spots of a bright red colour, between which, at regular distances, are yellow spots: the sides are spotted with black: the tail measures about a sixth of the whole length. This species is a native of Carolina, and, according to Catesby, resides under ground, being rarely seen on the surface, but is often dug up in digging for potatoes, &c. and is a perfectly harmless animal. It seems greatly allied, except in the number of abdominal and subcaudal scales, to the *Red Spotted Snake* before described.

DOUBTFUL SNAKE.

Cobra Americana. *Seb.* 2. *t.* 21. *f.* 3.

LENGTH about fifteen inches, and moderately thick in proportion: head rather large, and covered with small scales, neck thick: colour white, with extremely broad numerous transverse red bars, many of which are bifid on the sides; tail rather taper but not sharp-pointed, and marked above by a deep red undulating stripe of alternately confluent marks in some degree similar to those on the viper, to which tribe this species seems to belong: the head is white above, with two small oblong red marks in the middle: abdomen pale red: described merely from Seba's figure. Notwithstanding the viperine character mentioned in Seba's very slight description, the engraving has something of the appearance of an *Anguis*, and must be considered as doubtful.

 AGILE SNAKE.

Coluber Agilis. *C. fasciis alternis albis & fuscis, capite parvo, cauda brevi.*

Snake with alternate white and brown bands, small head, and short tail.

Coluber agilis. *Lin. Syst. Nat.* p. 381. *Mus. Ad. Frid.* p. 27. *t.* 21. *f.* 2.

Abdominal scuta 184, subcaudal scales 50.

DESCRIBED by Linnæus in the Museum Adolphi Friderici. Head small, and covered with large

scales: eyes small: teeth minute: body slender and smooth; length about a span: colour white, with numerous, broad, brown bands, surrounding the body, but narrower below than above: scales on the body smallish, the skin, according to the figure in the work above mentioned, appearing between them, so as to cause a kind of reticular variegation on the brown annuli: tail short, taper, but rather obtuse: native of Ceylon.

FLAT-NOSED SNAKE.

Coluber Simus. *C. nigricans, albo transversim fasciatus, naso simo.*

Blackish Snake, with white transverse bands, and turned-up nose.

Coluber simus. *Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 275.*

Abdominal scuta 124, subcaudal scales 46.

LENGTH about a foot and half: head rather large, roundish, the nose flat in front, and turned up into a slightly pointed tip: between the eyes a black curved band, and on the top of the head a white cross-shaped mark with a black central spot: body blackish or deep-brown, with white variegations so disposed as to form a kind of transverse bands: abdomen dusky: native of North America.

PADERA SNAKE.

Coluber Padera. *C. albus, maculis dorsalibus fuscis lineola connexis, lateralibus simplicibus.*

White Snake, with blackish dorsal spots connected by a line, and simple lateral spots.

Coluber Padera. *Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 382.*

Abdominal scuta 198, subcaudal scales 56.

OF this snake little more seems to be known than what may be collected from the short description of its colours given in the *Systema Naturæ*, viz. that it is white, with a dorsal range of double black spots connected by a common line; the sides being marked by a row of simple spots of similar colour. It is a native of India.

AUSTRALASIAN SNAKE.

Coluber fusco-nigricans, flavo punctatus, scutis brevissimis, abdomine fusco flavoque nebulato.

Blackish-brown Snake, speckled with yellow, with very narrow scuta, and abdomen clouded with brown and yellow.

A LARGE snake, measuring nine or ten feet in length, and being rather slender in proportion: colour above very deep or blackish brown, variegated with numerous yellow specks, which variegation is chiefly owing to each of the black or dark-brown scales being marked on the middle by an ovate yellow spot: on the sides of the body many of the scales are yellow on one half and black on the other; and by degrees appear more

tinged with yellow as they approach the abdomen, which is clouded with a mixture of brown and yellow: the head is small, covered in front, as in most of the innoxious snakes, with moderately large scales: the teeth rather large, and so far as could be judged from the dried specimens hitherto examined, unaccompanied by any poisonous fangs: the abdominal scuta remarkably narrow, scarce extending from side to side more than a fourth of the diameter of the body: the tail short, and gradually tapering to a slender point. The number of abdominal scuta and subcaudal scales, from the imperfect manner in which the dried skins have been imported, is not ascertainable. An extremely good general representation of this species may be found in Mr. White's Journal of a Voyage to New South Wales, as well as of some other Australasian snakes, which have hitherto been only described in a cursory manner, from dried specimens.

CYANEAN SNAKE.

Coluber Cyaneus. *C. cyaneus, subtus virescens.*

Deep-blue Snake, greenish beneath.

Coluber cyaneus. *Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 380.*

Anguiculus Surinamensis cyaneus. *Seb. 2. t. 43. f. 2.*

Abdominal scuta 119, subcaudal scales 110.

A RATHER small species: allied in colour, as well as in shape, to the *Ahaetulla*, being of a deep blue above, and greenish beneath: head of mode-

rate size, longish, and large-scaled : tail long, gradually tapering to a point : native of South America. In Seba's specimen, referred to by Linnæus, a narrow red line divides the sides from the abdomen.

SIBON SNAKE.

Coluber Sibon. *C. ferrugineus albo nebulatus, corpore subcompresso.*

Ferruginous Snake, clouded with white, with subcompressed body.

Coluber Sibon. *Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 383.*

Serpens Africana ab Hottentottis Sibon dicta. *Seb. 1. t. 14. f. 4.*

Abdominal scuta 180, subcaudal scales 85.

SOMEWHAT allied in general appearance to the *Coluber nebulatus*, but rather shorter in proportion : body laterally compressed : head short, flattish, and considerably larger than the neck, pale, and speckled with brown : remainder of the upper parts ferruginous clouded with white : abdomen pale clouded with brown : tail of moderate length, gradually tapering to the tip : the specimen figured in Seba, and referred to by Linnæus, is described as of brighter colours, the ground-colour being yellowish, and the variegations rufous and brown. I cannot forbear expressing some suspicion that this snake and the *nebulatus* may in reality be the same species : at all events, if they are not, they afford a very striking proof of the inefficacy of the Linnæan specific characters attempted from the number of scuta and squamæ.

DINGY SNAKE.

Coluber Exoletus. *C. griseo-cærulescens, capite oblongo depressiusculo, labiis gulaque albis.*

Brueish-grey Snake, with oblong flattish head, and white lips and throat.

Coluber exoletus. *Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 385.*

Abdominal scuta 147, subcaudal scales 132.

DESCRIBED by Linnæus in the Museum Adolphi Friderici: length about three feet: habit of the *Ahetulla*: colour blueish grey: scales on the body obtuse, and arranged in eleven rows: head oblong, flattish: lips and throat white: tail more than a third of the whole length, slender, and pale beneath: native of South America.

DHARA SNAKE.

Coluber Dhara. *C. cupreo-griseus subtus albus, squamarum marginibus albicantibus.*

Cupreous-grey Snake, white beneath, with the edges of the scales whitish.

Coluber Dhara. *Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p. 1111.*

Abdominal scuta 235, subcaudal scales 48.

DESCRIBED by Forskal: native of Arabia: length more than a cubit: thickness less than that of a finger: colour above cupreous grey, with the edges of the scales whitish: beneath white: head ovate and obtuse; covered with large scales, of which that in the middle or between the eyes is larger than the rest.

TYRIAN SNAKE.

Coluber Tyria. *C. albidus, maculis rhombicis fuscis in triplici.*

Whitish Snake, with a triple series of dusky rhomboid spots.

Coluber Tyria. *Lin. Lyst. Nat. Gmel. p. 1111.*

Abdominal scuta 210, subcaudal scales 83.

DESCRIBED by Hasselquist: colour whitish, with a triple longitudinal series of dusky rhomboid spots: native of Egypt.

PELIA SNAKE.

Coluber Pelias. *C. subfuscus fasciis transversis duplicatis nigris, subtus viridis, linea laterali flava.*

Brownish Snake, with double transverse black bands, beneath green, with a yellow lateral line.

Coluber Pelias. *Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. 1111.*

Abdominal scuta 187, subcaudal scales 130.

SUFFICIENTLY described in its specific character: observed by Linnæus in the Museum of Degeer: native of South America, and said to occur also in India. In the distribution of its colours it seems allied to the *Coluber ornatus*.

EGG SNAKE.

Coluber Ovivorus. *Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 385.*

Abdominal scuta 203, subcaudal scales 73.

OF this Linnæan snake nothing more seems to be known than that it is a native of America: it