Smith[5] reports a mosaic disease of *Malva sylvestris* L., the common mallow, where the affected leaves are slightly distorted, and occasionally show blistering. Boncquet and Stahl[6] report that mallow, *Malva rotundifolia*, harbours the virus of curly top of the sugar-beet. Carsner[7] has succeeded in transmitting the curly-top of sugar-beet to *Malva parviflora*.

Of special significance in this connection is Owen's[8] description of a mosaic disease of *Malachra alceifolia* of the Malvaceæ, where, in the young leaves, the veins alone are cleared. He describes also a mosaic of *Triumfetta lappula* (Tiliaceæ) showing conspicuous vein-clearing and very sharply defined inter-veinal chlorosis, the two symptoms frequently occurring together on the same leaf. In *Hibiscus esculentus* in Trinidad, the chlorosis is inter-veinal without veinal chlorosis[8]; *Sida* spp. show inter-veinal chlorosis and a very limited amount of vein-clearing. Owen[8] considers the mosaic of *H. esculentus* in Trinidad to be not the same as in India, and to be not of much economic importance.

Since the mosaic disease on *Malvastrum coromandelianum* Garcke, is characterized by a clearing of the veins, a symptom characteristic of the mosaic of *Hibiscus esculentus* in India, there is a possibility of this weed acting as an alternate host for the virus of bhendi mosaic.

Deparment of Agriculture
in Mysore, Bangalore, S. V. VENKATARAYAN.
September 23, 1947.

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* I am indebted to Sri. S. N. Chandrasekhara Iyer, Government Lecturing and Systematic Botanist, Agricultural College, Coimbatore, for the identification of the plant.

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THE DERMAL SCUTES OF *MABUYA DISSIMILIS* HALLOWELL

IN *Mabuya dissimilis*, the scales are enforced by a system of underlying bony scutes, which, Sibtain[1] claimed, "are not definitely marked off from each other at the boundary lines, but are interconnected by means of narrow bridges". Although I have carefully studied the skin of this lizard in alizarin-stained preparations (Fig. 1) and have examined single separated

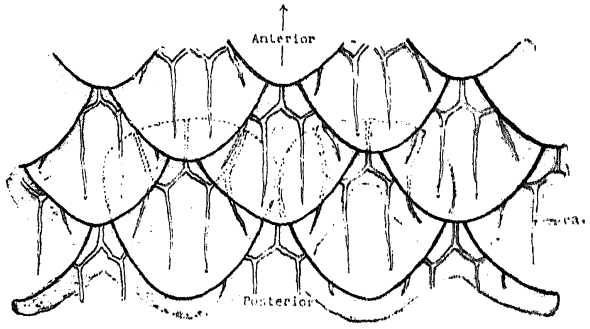

FIG. 1. A piece of normal tail of *Mabuya dissimilis* showing the disposition of scales in relation to scutes. (× 8) *ca.*, canal.

scutes (Fig. 2) under the microscope, I have failed to discover the interconnecting bridges. The appearance in whole preparations which

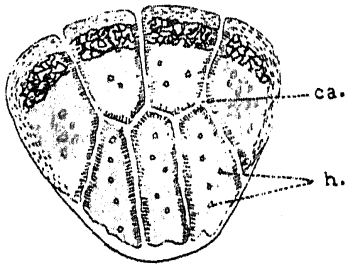

FIG. 2. An isolated candal scale of *Mabuya dissimilis* stained with alizarin and mounted in canada bal sam, (× 12) *ca.*, canal; *h.*, hole.

Sibtain perhaps mistook is due to the overlapping edges of contiguous scutes having been made extremely transparent in the preparations.

I am grateful to Professor Beni Charan Mahendra for assistance in writing the present note.

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Pilani (Jaipur State),
August 29, 1947

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1. Sibtain, *Proc. Ind. Acad. Sci.*, B, 1938, **8**, 67.

A LATENT VIRUS IN TOMATO

A VIRUS which is often carried symptomlessly in tomato, was recovered during inoculation experiments in connection with the studies on "Smalling Disease of Tomato". Inoculations were done on tomato plants grown in the insect-proof house and it was observed that although the Smalling disease is not sap-transmissible the plants so inoculated developed a faint and fleeting mottle. Repeated inoculations showed that this virus could be recovered from large number of tomato plants in the field including those not affected by Smalling disease. The Smalling disease has, however, been shown to be insect-transmitted, the vector being the white fly (*Bemisia tabaci*).

The tomato plants in the field were of the variety, *Suttons' early market*, and the same variety was used throughout the experimental work. For studies on the properties of the