

⁷ Huxley, T. H., "The Crayfish," *International Scientific Series*, 1880.

⁸ Reddy, A. R., "The gastric armature of some South Indian Decapod Crustacea," *Annamalai University Journal*, 1934, 4, No. 1.

⁹ Reddy, A. R., "A note on the variations in the gastric armature of some South Indian Decapod Crustaceans," *Proc. 22nd Ind. Sci. Cong.*, 1935.

¹⁰ Reddy, A. R., "On the structure, mechanism and development of the gastric armature of *Stomatopoda* with a discussion as to its evolution in *Decapoda*," *Proc. Ind. Acad. Sci.*, 1935, 1, No. 10.

¹¹ Parker, T. J., "On the stomach of Fresh-water Crayfish," *Jour. Anat. Physiol.*, 1876, 11.

¹² Vitzou, A. N., "Researches sur la, et la formation des tegumentes, chez les Crustacés Decapodes," *Arch. Zool. Exper.*, 1882, 10.

¹³ Herric, F. H., "The American Lobster," *Bull. U.S. Fish Comm.*, 1895, 15.

¹⁴ Williams, L. W., "The Stomach of the Lobster and the food of the Larval Lobsters," *37th Ann. Rep. Comm. of Inland Fish. Rhode Island*, 1907.

¹⁵ Yonge, C. M., "The mechanism of feeding, digestion and absorption in *Nephrops Norwegicus*," *British Journal of Experimental Biology*, 1924, 1, No. 2.

The Presence of Uncinate Processes on the Ribs of a Lacertilian.

UNCINATE processes are present in Birds, in some Temnospondyli among Stegocephalia, in the Rhynchocephalia, and in the Crocodylia.¹ Besides *Sphenodon* and crocodiles, they have not been recorded so far in any other living reptile. It is interesting, therefore, to mention their presence in a common Indian Lacertilian.

While making a detailed study of the endoskeleton of the housegecko, *Hemidactylus flaviviridis* Rüppel, I found that four anterior ribs bear such processes. These ribs are borne on the fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh cervical vertebræ and are partially hidden by the sternum and the pectoral arches. The processes themselves are extremely delicate and usually break off in the common methods of the preparation of skeleton. They, however, become quite distinct in an alizarin-stained skeleton.

The point is an important one, as it adds one more fact to the resemblances of some of the least specialised Lacertilia to *Sphenodon* and may be significant in the discussion of the latter animal's affinities. As is well known, some authorities² regard *Sphenodon* as the sole living representative of a primitive order of the Reptilia and consider it to be equal in rank to the other orders of this class. As opposed to this view, other zoologists³ think that the differences between some Lacertilians and this animal are "not

so great as to justify placing it in a separate order, but, on the contrary, it should be included in the Lacertilia."⁴

Incidentally, I might also take this opportunity of mentioning that Bhatia and Dayal⁵ are wrong when they say, "The vertebral column in *Hemidactylus* is composed of 6 cervical, 5 thoracic, 15 lumbar, 2 sacral, and large number of caudal vertebræ." Careful counting in alizarin-stained skeletons shows that the cervical vertebræ are eight and the lumbar thirteen, the total number of precaudal vertebræ being 28. These numbers also appear to tally remarkably with those of *Sphenodon*, as given by Howes and Swinnerton,⁶ viz., 8 cervical, 3-4 thoracic, 13-14 lumbar, and 2 sacral vertebræ, making a total of 26-28 precaudals. The difference in the numbers of the thoracic and the lumbar vertebræ of these two animals can be explained by the facts that the sternum in *Sphenodon* has no posterior continuations like that of *Hemidactylus* and that two of the thoracic ribs in the latter animal are connected to these continuations.

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June 3, 1935.

¹ Goodrich, E. S., *Studies on the Structure and Development of Vertebrates*, MacMillan, 1930, page 78.

² Günther, A., "Contributions to the Anatomy of *Hatteria* (*Rhynchocephalus*, Owen)", *Phil. Trans.*, 1867, B, 167.

³ E.g., Huxley.

⁴ O'Donoghue, Chas. H., "The Blood Vascular System of the Tuatara, *Sphenodon punctatus*", *Phil. Trans.*, B, 210, 240. (He himself, however, does not subscribe to this view.)

⁵ *Anat. Anz.*, Bd. 76, Nr. 23/24, page 432.

⁶ *Trans. Zool. Soc.*, 1901, 16, Part I.

The Hosts of *Eupelmus tachardiae* How.

MAHDIHASSAN¹ under the heading "Specificity of parasiticism by *Eublemma amabilis*" raised several issues, but chiefly accused Glover for making "the glaring statement" that *Eupelmus tachardiae* is "inimical to lac itself," and asserts that he has definitely proved it to be a parasite of *E. amabilis* caterpillars.

Replying to the above Glover and Negi² stated that during the last eight years many miles of lac encrustation and many thousands of *E. amabilis* larva had been examined at the Indian Lac Research Institute and that in no instance had *E. tachardiae* been found