

A NEW GENUS OF ELAPINE SNAKE FROM NORTH AUSTRALIA.

By

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(Plate vii and Figures 1-3.)

Through the generosity of Mr. H. L. White, of Belltrees, Scone, New South Wales, and the energies of his collector, Mr. W. McLennan, the Australian Museum acquired the large Elapine snake which is described below as belonging to a new genus.

*Family* COLUBRIDAE.

*Subfamily* ELAPINAE.

*Genus* OXYURANUS, *gen. nov.*

Maxillary extending forwards beyond the palatine, with one or two pairs of large grooved fangs followed by one small grooved tooth near the posterior extremity. Anterior portion of the palatine toothless and prolonged into a needle-like projection, the point of which is well behind the level of the anterior portion of the maxillaries. The palatine bears five to six and the pterygoid eight to nine small teeth. The maxillary teeth gradually decrease in size posteriorly, the anterior pair are much the largest, and the first two or three pairs on either side are feebly grooved.

Head not, or but slightly, distinct from neck; nostril situated in a divided nasal; no loreal. Body cylindrical; scales smooth<sup>1</sup>; ventrals rounded; subcaudals in two rows.

OXYURANUS MACLENNANI *sp. nov.*

Eye longer than high, its vertical diameter less than its distance from the mouth. Head not, or but slightly, distinct from the neck. Rostral broader than deep, visible from above. Internasals broader than long, shorter than, and not half the size of the prefrontals. These latter are broader than long and form sutures with the internasals, posterior nasal, second upper labial, preocular supraocular, and frontal. Frontal about twice as long as broad, once and one-third as broad as the supraoculars; its length equal to its distance from the posterior border of the rostral, and shorter than the suture formed by the parietals. Nasal divided, narrowly separated from the preocular by its suture with the prefrontal. Two postoculars; temporals 2 + 3,

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<sup>1</sup> A few of the central rows of dorsal scales appear to bear obtuse keels, but, as the skin is a flat one and was dried after being painted with an arsenical soap, these keels may be due to shrinkage. Mr. McLennan tells me that he is almost certain that the scales were smooth on the living snake.