NOTES ON SOME WESTERN AUSTRALIAN FROGS, WITH DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW SPECIES.

By

PROFESSOR LAUNCELOT HARRISON, B.A., B.Sc. (From the Department of Zoology, University of Sydney.)

(Figures 1-5.)

The material upon which this paper is based was collected by myself and others during the excursions which formed so interesting a feature of the Perth meeting of the Australasian Association in August last. Two species are described as new, and notes are given upon several others. It is suggested that two previously described species are synonymous with known forms. I have to thank Professor G. E. Nicholls, D.Sc., for his generosity in putting at my disposal his material of the species which I have dedicated to him, as well as for much assistance freely given in several other directions.

CRINIA LEAI Fletcher.

Crinia leai Fletcher, Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S.W., xxii, 1897 (1898), p. 677. Crinia leai Fry, Records W.A. Museum, i, 3, 1914, p. 203, pl. xxviii, figs. 2 and 2a.

Crinia michaelseni Werner, Fauna Südwest-Australiens, iv, 1914, p. 416. Nineteen individuals collected at Bridgetown, 174 miles south of Perth, 29. viii, 1926.

A larger series was collected, but a number were presented to Professor G. E. Nicholls, who had not himself taken this species. The frogs were found under discarded fence rails lying along an area of damp ground beside a creek on the property of Mr. E. G. Hall, about four miles out of Bridgetown. Fletcher's specimens came from Bridgetown and Jarrahdale; that figured by Fry from the Margaret River. The species has not been recorded from any other locality. If, however, as I suggest, Crinia michaelseni Werner is synonymous, then the following localities must be added:—Donnybrook, Boyanup, Lunenberg, Bunbury, and Albany. Professor Nicholls has not found this species in the neighbourhood of Perth, and I did not find it in the wheat-belt country at Narrogin or Merredin, so the range would appear to be through the coastal belt from a little south of Perth to Albany.

This frog is somewhat more variable than the descriptions of Fletcher and Fry (loc. cit., indicate. Less than half of my specimens show the characteristic dark dorsal band, which is most conspicuous in young individuals, and tends to become broken up with advancing age. During