

CEYLON NATIONAL MUSEUMS PUBLICATION

A COLORED ATLAS OF
SOME VERTEBRATES
FROM CEYLON

(Color Plates by the Author)

VOLUME THREE

SERPENTOID REPTILIA

By

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LIST OF HALF-TONE PLATES

Plate I. Two species of Ceylon whip snake.

Fig. 1 is *Ahaetulla nasuta*.

Fig. 2 is *Ahaetulla pulverulenta pulverulenta*.

Plate II. Photographs of fights staged between two species of Ceylon mongoose and cobras of ordinary size, staged by Sir James P. Obeyesekere in 1954. Photo by R. V. Deraniyagala.

Fig. 1. A small mongoose *Herpestes edwardsii lankae* (Wroughton) enters within the striking radius of the cobra.

Fig. 2. Another view of fig. 1. The cobra is drawing its head back preparatory to lunging at the mongoose.

Fig. 3. The larger species *Herpestes mustii rubiginosus* (Kelaart) is just about to spring at the cobra.

Fig. 4. The larger species of mongoose shown at fig. 3 has seized the mouth of the cobra and is wagging the snake. Only the top or back of the cobra's head is visible.

Plate III. Drawings of phases of a fight between a mongoose *Herpestes edwardsii lankae* and a large cobra staged by P. Deraniyagala in 1932. Drawn by the writer from a cine film of the fight.

Fig. 1. The cobra about to draw its head back preparatory to lunging at the mongoose that has jumped within its striking radius.

Fig. 2. The cobra with head drawn fully back and just about to lunge.

Fig. 3. The mongoose springing up and seizing the cobra's jaw.

Fig. 4. The cobra dropping to earth after shooting upwards into the air with the mongoose.

Fig. 5. The cobra constricting the mongoose.

Fig. 6. The mongoose rolling over and over in an attempt to dislocate the cobra's neck.

Plate IV. The two subspecies of the Ceylon krait *Bungarus ceylonicus* Günther.

Fig. 1. "Type" of *Bungarus ceylonicus ceylonicus* Günther is from Ratnapura and is Colombo National Museum No. R. S. 48.

Fig. 2 is a paratype of fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is the "Type" of *Bungarus ceylonicus lankaensis* ssp. nov. from Gurutalava. Colombo National Museum No. R. S. 47

Figs. 4 and 5 are paratypes of fig. 3.

Plate V. Two subfossorial snakes and three sea snakes.

Fig. 1. *Uropeltis (Silabocra) rukwani* \times 2/3 nat. size.

Fig. 2. *Platyplecterus madrasensis rukwani* \times 2/3 nat. size.

Fig. 3. *Hyleophis spiralis* \times 1/2 nat. size.

Fig. 4. *Microcephalophis gracilis* \times 1/5 nat. size.

Fig. 5. *Atractia stokesi* \times 1/5 nat. size.

Plate VI. *Python molurus pinborgi* constricting an *Aris aekis ceylonensis*; photo by Mr. Aloy Perera.

Plate VII. Dr John Davy, F.R.S., one of the earliest investigators of snake venom in Ceylon. See Appendix III.