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ON THE
REPTILES AND BATRACHIANS,

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Scarlet in life, reddish-yellow in alcohol, with 20—25 pairs of narrow black rings, those of each pair separated by a yellow band. The space between the pairs is nearly equal to that occupied by the pair and the included yellow. The black rings diverge and become narrow toward the belly, which in cases they do not cross. Occasionally the rings of different pairs unite on the abdomen. The first pair is incomplete, and does not encircle the neck, the anterior ring crosses the hinder extremity of the parietals, and commonly sends forward on the frontal an oblong or square extension, it stops at the angle of the mouth. The yellow rings widen on the ventral surface. Southeastern States.

VAR. ELAPSOIDEUS.

Loreal shield absent. Southeastern States.

OPHIBOLUS TRIANGULUS, *pl. V, fig. 1.*

COLUBER TRIANGULUM Boie, 1827, *Isis*, 537.

Moderately stout, subcylindrical; head small, little broader than the neck, depressed, crown slightly convex, snout comparatively broad; tail short, one sixth to one seventh of the total. Eye small, over the third and fourth labials, pupil round. Mouth-cleft deep, not much curved. Crown-shields nine, broad. Frontal broader anteriorly. Internasals small. Pre-frontals bent down on the sides of the head. Rostral broader than high, convex. Nasal in two parts, nostril between. Loreal low. Oculars 1—2, lower small. Temporals 2+2 to 3. Labials seven, posterior three larger. Infralabials nine (9—10), fifth large. Submentals two pairs. Scales smooth, lozenge-shaped, ends rounded, in 21 rows, outer as broad as long. Ventrals 200—215 (185—215). Anal entire. Subcaudals 45—55 pairs.

Brownish-yellow (more or less red in life), greyish on the flanks, with broad black-edged blotches of reddish-brown or brownish-red. The yellow separating the dorsal series is narrower than the blotches, and widens toward the flank, where in most varieties it bifurcates, and with the opposite band surrounds a medium-sized, light-centered blotch. Occasionally there are two series of alternating blotches on the flank. Belly yellowish, with quadrate black blotches, often more black than yellow. Back of

head with a triangular spot of yellow, bilobed in front. A band of brown across the hinder part of prefrontals through the eye to the angle of the mouth. East of the Mississippi Valley.

var. CALLIGASTER.

Colors somewhat lighter than in specimens from the Eastern States. Scales in 25 rows. Northern portion of Mississippi Valley.

var. MEXICANUS.

Body as in specimens from the Eastern States; head much swollen at the temples. Scales in 23 rows. Ventrals 193—199. Anal entire. Subcaudals 56—58 pairs.

Brownish-grey to greyish-brown, with 38—40 transverse blotches of red, inclosed by black, light-edged rings. These rings may be described as pairs of transverse bands, which unite on the flank just above a large light-edged black spot. The space occupied by the red and black together about equals the dark one separating the rings. Alternating with the spots on the flank there is a series of spots on each edge of the abdomen, which are more or less confluent with the blotches of the middle of the belly. Belly yellow, blotched with black, sometimes much more black than yellow, more yellow forward. Chin and throat yellow. A large black spot behind the eye, V-shaped marks of black on the top of the head, opening forward. First blotch behind the head irregular, emarginate arrow-shaped or divided longitudinally. Mexico, near San Luis Potosi.

var. DOLIATUS, *pl. V, fig. 2.*

Red, dorsal blotches more or less ring-like, 20 to 30, with or without the spot on the flank. The triangular spot on the back of the head is replaced by a transverse band, in front of which there is either a narrow black band or the whole top of the head is black, excepting the labials and rostral. Ventrals 181 to 208. Subject to great variation. Hab. southern part of Mississippi Valley.

var. GENTILIS.

Crown-shields, oculars, and rostral black. Prefrontals and loreal mottled with yellow, with twenty to forty yellow rings encircling the body. Between the yellow there are pairs of black rings inclosing a narrow space of red, across which the black is sometimes confluent on belly and back,