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D A T E S O F P U B L I C A T I O N .

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12. *Testudo baluchiorum*, a new species.—By N. ANNANDALE, D.Sc.,
C.M.Z.S., Deputy Superintendent of the Indian Museum.

DIAGNOSIS OF *Testudo baluchiorum*, sp. nov.

Shell arched transversely and longitudinally, slightly more than half as deep as long; anterior margins slightly reverted, serrated; costals almost vertical. Head small, broad, covered with irregular scales above; interorbital region of the skull almost flat, but sloping a little towards the nasal opening; upper jaw tricuspid, feebly serrated; occipital process short, barely extending beyond the condyles. Four claws on each foot; the fore-foot with about six rows of large imbricating scales on the anterior surface; the hind foot with three spur-like tubercles on the heel; two large subtriangular tubercles, surrounded by smaller ones, on the back of the thigh. Tail short, with a small apical tubercle. Shields of carapace concentrically striated, with a flat sculptured central area; supracaudal single, almost vertical. Plastron truncated in front, probably notched deeply behind. Colour of shell pale brown, irregularly marbled with darker brown.

Locality.—Baluchistan (A. W. Murray). A stuffed specimen in the Indian Museum, identified by Anderson as *T. horsfieldii*.

Remarks.—This species may be distinguished from the Afghan Tortoise (*T. horsfieldii*), the only other species of its genus with four claws on all the feet, by its deeper carapace, which is not flattened on the dorsal surface, and by the characters of its skull. In *T. horsfieldii* there is a marked transverse depression across the interorbital region and the sides of the upper jaw are smooth. The new species resembles *T. zarudnyi* Nikolski in several of its characters, notably in its almost vertical costals. The description of the latter Tortoise, described from Eastern Persia and possibly occurring in Baluchistan, is given below.

As it seems probable that the type of *T. baluchiorum* is abnormal in certain respects, I have given a very brief and guarded diagnosis of the species it represents. The anals are almost entirely absent, being represented by several small, irregularly shaped tubercles, which separate the femorals from one another at their anterior extremity. There is no evidence that this is due to injury, as the place where the missing plates should be is covered with normal and apparently healthy skin.

Dimensions of the Type of T. baluchiorum.

Length of shell	...	...	211 mm.
Depth „ „	...	...	111 „
Breadth „ „	...	...	160 „
Length of skull	...	...	35 „
Maximum breadth of skull	...	...	30 „

For comparison the diagnosis of *Testudo zarudnyi* Nikolski is appended. It is quoted from Nikolski's paper in the *Annales du Musée Zoologique de l'Académie, St. Pétersburg*, 1897. I an

much indebted to Mr. G. A. Boulenger, who has sent me a copy of this paper on loan.

"*Testudo affinis Testudini iberae* Pall., a qua carapace lateribus compressa, scutis margino-lateralibus perpendicularibus, supra non visis, scuti margino-brachialis anterioris margine inferiore valde assurrecta, unguibus brevibus obtusissimis, rhinotheca distincte denticulata, differt.

Testudo, latitudine carapacis in media parte 1.5 in ejus longitudine; margine ejus posteriore expanso, parum assurrecto; marginibus scutorum margino-femoralium, incisura magna inter se discretorum, rotundatis; margine scuti margino-brachialis anterioris valde assurrecto, supra posticeque spectante; scuto nuchali elongato, ensiformi; scutis margino-collaribus supra duplicibus; scutis margino-lateralibus perpendicularibus, supra non visis; scuto supracaudali indiviso, sub angulo 45° ad planitiem horizontalem posito, longitudine ejus scuti longitudini scuti vertebralis primi aequali; margine anteriore scuti vertebralis primi rotundato, nec angulato; latitudine omnium scutorum vertebrali longitadinem eorum multum superante, latitudini scutorum costalium fere aequali; margine posteriore plastronis inciso, ad suturam inter scuta femoralia et abdominalia mobili; margine anteriore plastronis inciso, sutura inter scuta analia cum sutura inter scuta femoralia multum quam sutura inter se abdominalia brevior, scutis axillaribus unguinalibusque parvis angustis, sutura inter scuta brachialia dupla quam inter pectoralia longiore, scutello praefrontali duplici; rhinotheca distincte denticulata; pedibus anterioribus antice scutis latis rotundatis imbricatis 5 series longitudinales et 6 transversales finctis, tectis; longitudine eorum scutorum distincte quam latitudine eorum minore, tubere magno corneo subconico in femoris parte posteriore; unguibus brevibus obtusissimis, longitudine longissimi unguis oculi diametrum longitudinalem sequante, vel paulo superante, latitudine unguium vix $1\frac{1}{2}$ in eorum longitudine; cauda tenui, longa, longitudine ejus longitudinis capitis majore, scutellis caudalibus dilatatis deplanatis quadrangularibus vel pentagonalibus, 6-8 circum caudam dispositis; carapace lateribus flavescente, macula nigra in scutorum costalium tuberibus ornata; margine anteriore carapacis, scutis vertebralibus nigricantibus, scutis margino-lateralibus nigro-marginatis, plastrone flavescente nigro-notato; scutis pedum anteriorum flavescensibus, anguste nigro-marginatis, unguibus palmarum flavescensibus plantarum nigricantibus.

Longitudo carapacis 254 mm.

Habitat in montibus provinciae Birdschan in Persia orientali."