

2. Description of a new Land-Tortoise from South Africa, from a Specimen living in the Society's Gardens. By G. A. BOULENGER, F.Z.S.

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(Plate XIV.)

The following is a description of a new species of the genus *Homopus*, three (female) specimens of which have been presented to the Society by the Rev. G. H. R. Fisk, C.M.Z.S. They were obtained at Cradock. In a letter to the Secretary and in one to me, Mr. Fisk drew attention to differences shown by these specimens as compared to those of the neighbourhood of the Cape. These differences indicate unquestionably a distinct species, which I propose to name

*HOMOPUS FEMORALIS*, sp. nov. (Plate XIV.)

Shell more than twice as long as deep, flat on the vertebral region, posterior margin reverted and serrated. Dorsal shields not swollen, concentrically striated, separated by deep grooves; areolæ not or but feebly impressed; vertebral shields as broad as or a little narrower than the costals; nuchal small, longer than broad. Plastron and plastral shields as in *H. areolatus*. A pair of large præfrontal shields, followed by a large frontal; beak feebly hooked; lower jaw narrower than in *H. areolatus*. Fore limb anteriorly covered with very large, imbricate, pointed tubercles, one of which, on the inner side near the elbow, is movable at right angles to the others; a very large conical tubercle on the hinder side of the thigh. Pale brown above, each shield narrowly edged with black in front and on the sides; plastral shields yellow, brown anteriorly. Shielded or tuberculate soft parts pale brownish, naked parts orange.

Length of shell 13 centim.

This Tortoise differs from both *H. areolatus* and *H. signatus* in the larger size and the feebly hooked upper jaw: from the former in the serrated posterior margin of the carapace and in the spur-like tubercle on the back of the thigh; and from the latter by the small inguinal shield, which is widely separated from the femoral shield, the presence of large præfrontal and frontal shields, and the absence of the fifth claw in the hand.

For my knowledge of the animal of *H. signatus*, only the shell of which was known, I am indebted to Mr. Peringuey, who has recently brought to the British Museum two specimens obtained by him in Damaraland. Although provided with 5-4 claws, *H. signatus* must none the less be referred to the genus *Homopus*, on account of the absence of a median alveolar ridge in the upper jaw. *Testudo horsfieldi*, on the other hand, is, in spite of its 4-4 claws, a true *Testudo*.



Peter. Smit del. et lith.

EMMOPUS FEMORALIS

Muttern, Bros. Incip.