

## Research Notes

### PARTIAL ALBINISM AND ABSENCE OF FRONTAL SHIELD IN A TAIWAN KEELED SNAKE, *ELAPHE CARINATA* (GÜNTHER)

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Herpetologists have recognized *Elaphe carinata* as a snake exhibiting broad ranges in coloration. From collections in the American Museum of Natural History Pope (1935, The Reptiles of China, p 234) has described a specimen which is almost entirely black. Unusually light colored specimens have not been recorded by previous authors (Chen, 1956, A Synopsis of the Vertebrates of Taiwan, p 329; Maki, 1931, Monograph of the Snakes in Japan, p 92-93; Stejneger, 1907, Herpetology of Japan and Adjacent Territory, 58: 308-310) concerned with the reptiles of Taiwan.

The snake described in this note was purchased from a Taipei wholesale snake dealer on June, 24 1962. It supposedly was captured in Tai-Chung Hsien in west central Taiwan. It is considered to be approximately 50 per cent albino. The overall coloration of this specimen is uniformly whitish yellow, but the ventral surface is paler than the upper part of the body. The eye is pink (Figure 1).

Other data on this specimen are as follows:

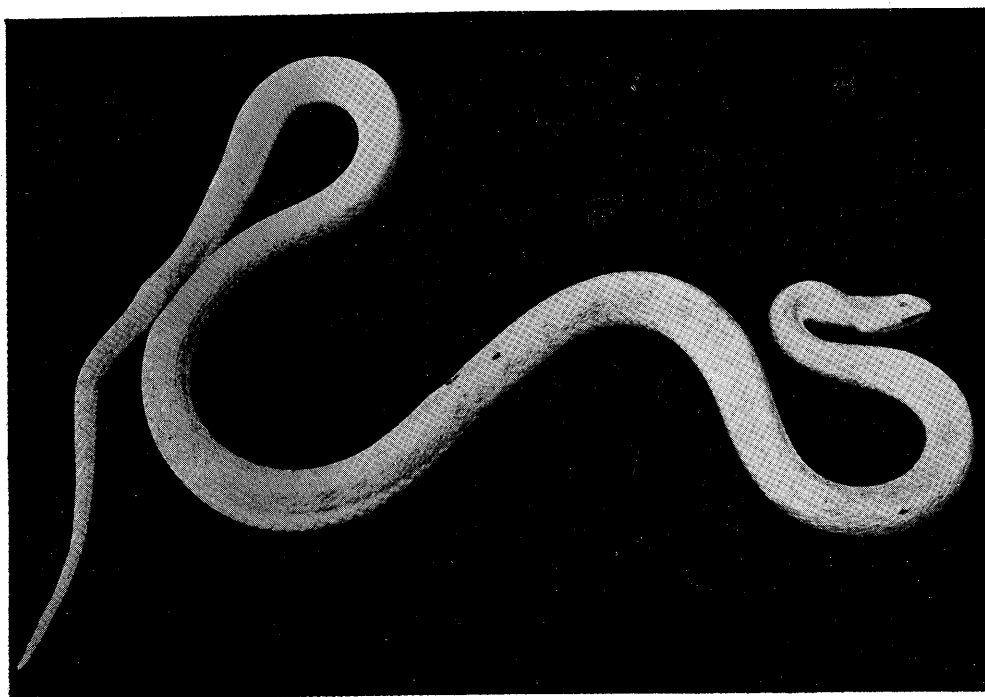
Sex ♂; scales in 25-23-19 rows, all strongly keeled except for the outer 2 rows in anterior half of the body, and 1 row in the posterior half; ventrals 219+; subcaudals (broken tail) 71 pairs left; anals 2; upper labials 8-8, the 4th and 5th entering the eye; lower labials 11-11, anterior 5 in contact with anterior chin-shields, which are slightly longer than the posterior; preoculars 2, the upper one divided longitudinally and pariti-

ally at anterior edge; postoculars 2; loreal 1; temporals 2+3, the upper anterior and upper posterior ones are fused on left and right sides, the lower anterior temporal also fuses in part with the upper anterior one posteriorly on the right side and the lower anterior temporal on left side divides into 2 transversely. Most of the head shields, except for the supraoculars and the frontal, agree with descriptions of Stejneger. Both supraoculars are enlarged and meet anteriorly at the median line. The frontal has failed to develop, leaving a fusiform area of skin wedged between the posterior half of supraoculars and the anterior angle between the parietals. The parietals are shorter than supraoculars (Figure 2).

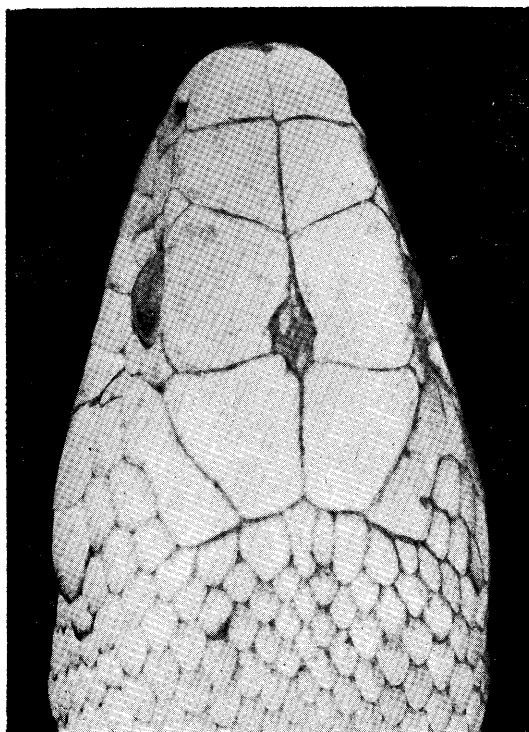
The hemipenis of this snake extends to 15th subcaudal plate. Its internal structures are identical to these described by Pope. The anal gland extends to the 9th subcaudal plate and is about 4.1 cm long.

This snake is deposited in the collection of the Department of Biomorphics, National Defense Medical Center, Taipei, Taiwan.

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*Fig. 1.* A Taiwan keeled snake with whitish yellow coloration, No. 363.



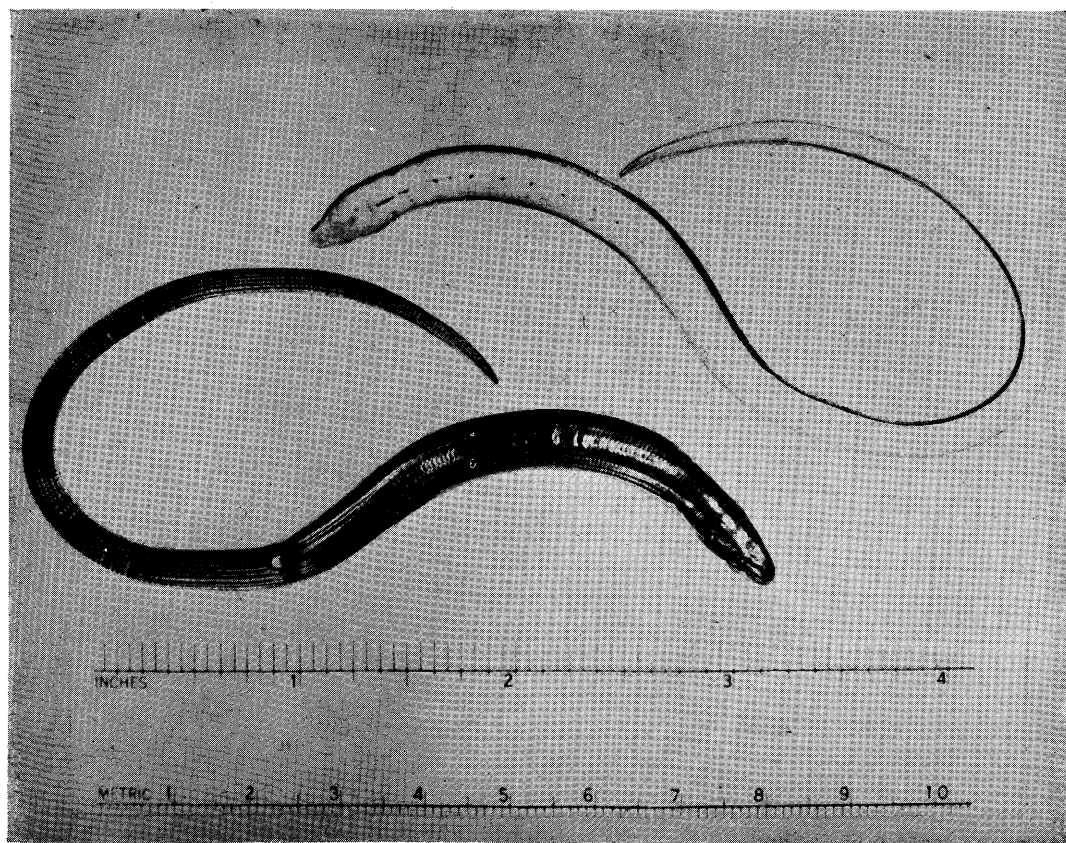
*Fig. 2.* Dorsal view of head, No. 363, showing the extremely enlarged supraoculars, the fused upper temporals and absence of frontal shield.

A JUVENILE GLASS-SNAKE, *OPHISAURUS HARTI*  
(BOULENGER), FROM TAIWAN

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In the literature dealing with Hart's "glass-snake" (Boulenger, 1899, Proc. Zool. Soc. London. p 160; Schmidt, 1927, Notes on Chinese Reptiles. 54: 486; Pope, 1935, The Reptiles of China. p 473; Okada, 1938, A Catalogue of Vertebrates of Japan. p 108; Loveridge, 1946, Reptiles of the Pacific World. p 101-102; Chen, 1956, A Synopsis of the Vertebrates of Taiwan. p 339-340), only Boulenger has mentioned the coloration of the young. Although this species is known in Taiwan, young forms have rarely been seen.

A living juvenile specimen was sent to me by a snake dealer on September 11, 1962, said to be from Tai-Ping Shan, a high mountain in I-Lan Hsien (northeast Taiwan). The coloration of this specimen is grayish white above, with an interrupted but prominent black vertebral line on the body, only traces of vertebral line occurring on the tail. There are lines of minute black dots parallel with the vertebral line on the sides of the back. Ventral and lateral surfaces are deep black. The hind part of the head has 2



*Fig. 1.* Dorsal (above) & ventral (below) views of a juvenile glass snake, No. 40 (II)

small black dots. The entire animal looks as if it were freshly varnished.

The characteristics of this lizard are summarized as follows: two scales separating the nasal from azygos prefrontal, which is in contact with the greatest width of the frontal; 2 azygos shields between rostral and azygos prefrontal; 5 supraoculars. Dorsal scales in 16 longitudinal series, 10 of which are obtusely keeled; lateral and ventral scales smooth, the former in 5 and the latter in 10 longitudinal series respectively. The lateral scales are visible distinctly, since the

skin fold has not been formed. Measurement from snout to vent 6.9 cm; tail 9.6 cm.

This specimen is numbered 40 (II) and preserved in the Department of Biomorphics, National Defense Medical Center, Taipei, Taiwan.

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