

about the towns and villages of South China. The Aborigines appear to have no peculiar Dog of their own.

“*Choo (Pig)*.—Ears small, hoofs short. The white-necked variety is looked on with dislike.” These small white and pied Pigs are reared in great quantity in Hainan, and a large trade is done in them with Canton, where the larger black race of South China, with long head and drooping ears, hollow back, and hanging belly, is comparatively scarce. It is the Hainan Pig that has been introduced into England, through Canton, as the “small China Pig;” and there is certainly a strong family likeness between the pretty Hainan race and the Berkshire breed at home.

“*Mao (or Domestic Cat)*.—Cannot endure fleas or lice on its skin. Cats that have nine holes inside the mouth will catch Rats the four seasons through.” The Cats that I saw in the towns of Hainan were of the small short-haired race reared in Canton and throughout Southern China—very similar to the ordinary London Cat, but rather smaller.

3. List of Reptiles and Batrachians collected in the Island of Hainan (China), with Notes. By ROBERT SWINHOE, F.Z.S.

I. *Sauria*.

1. *VARANUS DRACÆNA* (L.); Günther, Reptiles of Brit. Ind. p. 65.

This large Lizard appears to be common in the interior of Hainan, and is eaten by the Chinese. I procured the skin of a good-sized specimen, and the foot of a smaller one. Dr. Günther has determined them to be of this species, which before was only known to occur in India, from Nepaul to Ceylon. I have not met with it in any other part of China.

2. *MABOUIA CHINENSIS* (Gray); Günth. *op. cit.* p. 83.

The Chinese Skink is common in Hainan, and in China generally south of the Yangtze. It is also abundant in Formosa, and in the dry sandy millet-fields of the Pescadore Islands, where, however, it seems always to remain of a small size. The large Chinese specimens are sometimes richly marked with orange on the sides of the neck.

3. *PERIPHA PERONII* (Dum. et Bibr.); Günth. *op. cit.* p. 110.

The noisy House-gecko, *Gecko japonicus* (Dum. et Bibr.), did not enliven the walls of houses in Kiungchow city; but in its place this small species was occasionally seen. It seems to be silent. The best specimen I have brought was captured on the wall of the Taotai's waiting-hall at night. It was catching the flies attracted by the light of a lamp. Dr. Günther quotes this species as occurring in Mauritius, Penang, and Ceylon; but this is its first occurrence within Chinese bounds.

4. DRACO, sp.?

The little Flying Lizard appears only to be found in the jungly district of Nychow (South Hainan), where it is an article of trade. The natives say that it is usually met with during spring in the forests in pairs flying from tree to tree. They are caught with a net; and when one is taken the other falls to the ground and allows itself to be captured without difficulty. They are pinned out like Butterflies and dried for the market. Their chief use is to hasten childbirth, the dried reptile being placed on the forehead of the woman in labour. They are called *Fei-shay*, or "Flying Snake," and sell for one shilling apiece. I bought six of the prepared specimens; but Dr. Günther says that in their dried state it is impossible to determine the species.

5. CALOTES VERSICOLOR (Daud.); Günth. *op. cit.* p. 140.

This long-tailed green Tree-lizard, with a combed back, was very common in all the woody parts of the island, and I secured a good series. It is very agile in its movements, running with great celerity along the ground and up trees, and leaping from bough to bough like a Squirrel. The Chinese are very loth to touch it, declaring it to be venomous.

6. LIOLEPIS GUTTATUS, Cuv.; Günth. *op. cit.* p. 154.

On the low sandy hill, partly covered with Cocoa-nut trees, that bounds on the south the Lingshuy lagoon (S. E. Hainan) I first met with this large, showy, white-spotted Lizard. They were very numerous, and the sandy soil was riddled with their holes. They lay basking in the sun, and when disturbed would run with great speed to the mouths of their holes, where they would stop short and turn their heads about. If not satisfied with what they saw, they popped at once into their holes. If surprised far from their holes, they spring into the air while running, and, expanding the loose red skin of their sides, skim along the surface of the sand for a considerable distance (say, often twenty yards at a time) and thus reach their retreats at greater speed. Their flight is not continued by flaps, but seems to be merely a long sustained leap, the body being made buoyant by the expanded side skin, and is analogous to the flight of the Flying-fish. They have a peculiar smell about them, which affects the taste of their flesh; and they are in consequence not eaten by the Chinese, except when in great distress for food. I met them again in the Nychow district, and in many warm sandy nooks along the west coast—never in the neighbourhood of woods, and I do not believe that they ever scale trees. We saw hundreds of them, and took great interest in watching their habits.

The British Museum has specimens of this Lizard from the Malayan peninsula, from Mergui, from Cambodia, and from China.

II. *Ophidia*.

7. SIMOTES or OLIGODON, sp.?

A red Snake about $1\frac{1}{2}$ foot in length, Dr. Günther says, belongs

to one or the other of these genera, but its head is so injured that he cannot determine it.

8. *TROPIDONOTUS STOLATUS* (L.); Günth. *op. cit.* p. 266.

This common Indian species, which may be distinguished by the longitudinal white stripe it carries on each side of its back, was abundant in Hainan, as it is elsewhere in South China.

9. *PYTHON MOLURUS* (L.); Günth. *op. cit.* p. 331.

Two large Pythons were exposed in the market for sale at Taiping-size (Central Hainan) in February. They had been taken in the neighbourhood, and I was told that the country people often brought them in. They were confined merely by a straw rope twisted round the neck. The natives declare that they are not hurtful to man; and are easily caught by throwing over their heads a noose of twisted grass, and may with this be led about without danger. They call them Vang, and take them for the sake of their skin, heart, and liver. The skin is used chiefly for making drums, banjos, and other musical instruments; and the heart and liver, when dried and pounded, for stimulative medicine. They offered the live ones to me for 1200 copper cash (5s.) each, provided I would return to them the hearts and livers. This was the day after the market-day, when the countrymen had left, and I could get no one to slaughter the monsters; so I contented myself with the couple of flat skins that I had already purchased at the bartering-station further among the mountains, which were quite sufficient to show the species.

Du Halde, in his great work on China, says of Hainan, "The reptiles cannot be dangerous there, seeing the confidence with which the islanders walk day and night on the plains and in the middle of the thick wood, without arms and with nearly always naked feet. There are, however, Snakes and Vipers of a prodigious size; but as they are very timid, a simple movement or the least cry drives them to a distance."

III. *Batrachia.*

10. *RANA ESCULENTA*, L.; Günth. *op. cit.* p. 408.

Very common about the rice-fields, and offered in most of the Hainan markets as an article of food. I did not preserve specimens.

11. *RANA GRACILIS*, Wiegman; Günth. *op. cit.* p. 409.

A common species in Hainan, and, indeed, all over South China. Found on marshy ground and about the edges of rice-fields.

12. *HYLA CHINENSIS*, Günth. *op. cit.* p. 409.

Occurs in the woods of the island. It is generally observed sitting motionless on a leaf, and, from its green colour, often escapes detection.

In conclusion, I have to record my thanks to Dr. Günther for examining and determining all the species named in this list.