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## HERPETOLOGICAL NOTES

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*COLEONYX* IN CAPTIVITY.—During the summer of 1933, I collected a number of banded geckos (*Coleonyx variegatus*), of which two were retained for observation. These two were captured July 8 and 15, respectively. They were taken with the aid of a flashlight between 8:00 and 11:00 P. M. on a black asphalt highway on the desert in northeastern San Diego County, California.

These two specimens, like other geckos which I have kept, fed well and soon became very tame. By the middle of September, they would accept food from my fingers and would eat while sitting on my hand. They ate in broad daylight, by artificial light at night, and apparently also in the dark. Their diet consisted of a great variety of insects, principally termites, flies, and locusts. These little lizards had great appetites—the smaller one, on one occasion, eating twenty-eight large termites in rapid succession. They would often jump up from the ground in an effort to capture a butterfly or locust. Usually they caught their prey by slowly stalking it, lifting each leg in a slow precise manner, and finally making a quick grab at the victim. Before it was seized, the prey was usually tested with the tongue, as were other objects in the cage which were encountered by the lizards while prowling about.

During the summer months, whenever food was placed in the cage, the geckos would rarely refrain from coming out and devouring it. Besides the termites, flies, and locusts mentioned, they ate moths, butterflies in all three stages of growth, bees, roaches, crickets, and a few small beetles. They even ate dead insects, although it was sometimes necessary to move these about with a straw before they would be taken. On a few occasions, they ate bits of raw meat and small pellets of soaked bread which were placed on the end of a broom straw and moved about in front of them. After November 14, the geckos refused food, and up to the present writing (January 1, 1934), they have eaten nothing. Insects, such as large cockroaches, which were too big to pass through the mouth easily, were swallowed by a sidewise moving of the jaws, in the manner a snake swallows its prey.

During the time these geckos have been in captivity, they have made their home under a large rock which was placed in their cage. They dug a burrow under this rock themselves and are frequently to be seen digging in the sand of their cage. From this

members and are frequently to be seen digging in the sand of their cage. From the hole they come forth on summer evenings at about 7:00 and prowl around until near midnight. They sleep in either a curled-up or stretched-out position with the body flattened. Once one was found sleeping curled about the upper branches of a small bush placed in the cage, suggesting that they may climb to a certain extent in their native habitat.

Both geckos are still living and appear to be in good condition.—WILLIAM DERBONNE, *San Diego Reptile Club, San Diego, California.*

NOTES ON THE SALAMANDER, *PLETHODON ELONGATUS*.—Several specimens of this rare salamander were captured on November 4, 1933, a few days after the first heavy fall rain, on the north side of the Klamath River, about five miles southeast of Requa, Del Norte Co., California, on a south-facing hill slope well covered with redwood, Sitka spruce, and madroño (*Arbutus*). The salamanders were not uncommon here under rotting logs and slabs of bark; Mrs. Wood and I secured ten specimens in about an hour's search. The stomach of one of these specimens contained an undigested annelid worm about 100 mm. in length.

Under a piece of fallen redwood bark, together with an adult *P. elongatus*, were found two small, irregular clusters of salamander eggs, about 100 in number, presumably of this species. They were closely cemented together by a small quantity of viscous jelly-like material, and were about 3 mm. in diameter, nearly spherical, but attenuated on one side to a noticeable point. Some of them contained embryos up to a size of nearly 1.5 mm.

In April, 1933, I collected in this vicinity, spending part of two days, searching this very spot. Although at that time I found other species of salamanders abundant in the region and throughout the northern coastal counties of California, careful search revealed no *elongatus*. Other likely spots in the vicinity of the type locality were examined without results as far as this species is concerned.—WALLACE F. WOOD, 7130 Chabot Road, Oakland, California.