

NOTES ON THE HOLOTYPE OF *DIPSAS INDICA CISTICEPS* (BOETTGER)
(SERPENTES-DIPSADINAE)

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Generally the specimens of Linnaea Institut, after description, they were sold to several Museums and consequently the actual location of types is sometimes unknown.

From the three new species of snakes described by Boettger (1885) we already had the opportunity to examine: the Holotype of *Rhinaspis Rhodei* = *Simophis rhinostoma* (Schlegel) now in Z.M.H.U. Berlin 10602, and one of the cotypes of *Liophis (Lygophis) genimaculata* = *Liophis joberti* (Sauvage) now in British Museum of Natural History.

Recently we found a specimen of *Dipsas indica cisticeps* in the collections of Z.I.L.* which although not labelled as Type specimen is without doubt the Holotype of *Dipsas indica cisticeps* (Boettger).

Boettger's description of *cisticeps* was based on a unique specimen from Paraguay, leg. by Linnaea Institut at Frankfurt a/Main, (a commercial organization).

The specimen ZIL 6659, a male, is registered as being from Paraguay, 1885, leg. Linnaea Firma (with an annotation that the Firma Linnaea was a commercial institution that traded specimens).

Comparing the original description with the ZIL specimen it becomes evident that it is the Holotype of *Dipsas indica cisticeps*.

Redescription of holotype: Rostral a little wider than deep (4 x 3,3 mm) not visible from above; internasals half the length of prefrontals; frontal slightly longer than wide, shorter than the parietals; nasal semidivided above (the division does not reach the nostril); loreal entering the orbit; two postoculars, equal in height, the upper one slightly longer than the lower; 7th upper labial in contact with unique primary temporal on left side, none on the right side; two first pairs of lower labials in contact behind the symphyseal; 4(R.) and 5(L.) Lower labials in contact with anterior chin-shields, chin tubercles present; dorsals in 13/13:13 rows, the vertebral one enlarged; first 11 caudodorsals enlarged.

The dorsal dark blotches are opposed and fused anteriorly and alternating posteriorly, the blotches are chocolate brown with a fine darker brown border; on some places in the dorsal region an external fine white orla can be detected; first blotch with some very thin white streaks on vertebral line; belly light

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TABLE I

Characters	Original description	Z.I.L. number 6659
Body length in mm.	432,5	439,0
Tail length in mm.	155,0	156,0
Head length in mm.	17,5	17,4
Head width in mm.	11,4	11,5
Praeoculars	2 (equal)	2 (equal in height)
Postoculars	2	2
Temporals	1-2 and 2-3	1-2 (L.) and 1-3 (R.)
Dots in parietals	one in each	one in each
Upper labials	7	7
Lower labials	12-13	12-13
Upper labials in eye	3,4,5 and 4,5	3,4,5 (R.) and 4,5 (L.)
Ventrals	187	186
Anal	1	1
Subcaudals	87/87	87/87
Body blotches	22	22 + ½
Tail blotches	14	13 + ½

The comparison of data on table I shows clearly that the Z.I.L. specimen is the Holotype of *Dipsas indica cisticeps* (Boettger)

brown; the dark color of dorsal blotches invading lightly the ventrals; no white or whitish dots between the bases of dark blotches.

SUMMARY

The Holotype of *Dipsas indica cisticeps* Boettger 1885 is rediscovered in the collections of the Department of Herpetology from the Zoological Institut at Leningrad. A redescription of the rediscovered Holotype is given.

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