

**CATALOGUE OF THE
BATRACHIA SALIENTIA
IN THE COLLECTION
OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649413621

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BY
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LONDON:
PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE TRUSTEES.
1858.

PRINTED BY TAYLOR AND FRANCIS,
RED LION COURT, FLEET STREET.



PREFACE.

THE object of this Catalogue is to give a description of all the species of Tail-less Batrachians (*Batrachia Salientia*) in the Collection of the British Museum, with an indication of their history and origin, and an account of the species to be found in other Collections which are desiderata to the National Museum.

Dr. Günther observes:—"The system according to which I have arranged the *Batrachia Anura* in the Collection of the British Museum differs in many respects from those hitherto employed. I have explained, in a paper in the 'Proceedings of the Zoological Society,' 1858, p. 339, the reasons which have induced me to subordinate the character of the maxillary teeth to that of the dilated or tapering toes, in dividing the section *Opisthoglossa*. By so doing we obtain two parallel series, in each of which corresponding members occur in regular succession. I am not afraid of separating these animals into too many families, and have established them even for one or two

genera, where the characters seemed sufficient. As yet we know little (except of the borders) of Africa, Australia, and Tropical America, and there are but few collectors who have directed particular attention to this class of animals. Thus we may not only affirm with some certainty that many families at present poor in species will soon be enriched, but we may even venture to prognosticate that at least some of the missing forms, which I have pointed out, will be discovered. The progress made in our knowledge of the *Batrachia Anura* during the last fifty years may be seen at once by the following comparison of the number of species given by different authors:—

Shaw in 1802	51 species.
Tschudi in 1838	110 species.
Duméril & Bibron (vol. ix.) in 1854 ..	164 species.
The present Catalogue in 1858	280 species.

“There are, besides, many species which I could not introduce into this Catalogue, on account of the imperfect descriptions given of their systematic characters.

“Dr. J. E. Gray has collected in his MSS. (the free use of which, with his usual kindness, he has permitted me) diagnoses of many species from papers scattered through various journals, and so directed my attention to species which I might otherwise have overlooked. He proposed to arrange these animals into two groups, according to the form of the diapophysis of the sacral vertebra. I fully acknow-

ledge the systematic importance of this character, but I consider it to be of subordinate value.

" I have to return my best thanks to my friend and fellow-collegian Eduard v. Martens, M.D., for supplying me with detailed accounts of species in the Berlin Museum which are wanting in this Collection.

" Finally, I cannot forbear noticing a very bad practice, now prevalent, by which new species run the risk of being overburdened with synonyms, and thrown from the first into a state of confusion. In several of the large Collections new species remain *named* for years, without being established in a regular way by published descriptions. These names are then brought before the public by occasional visitors, especially by dealers, who often apply them to specimens of quite another species, without any further notice where or by whom they were given. Little better is the practice of publishing lists of species, where the new ones are named without any diagnosis. If an author does not choose to give science the benefit of his knowledge of a new species, why not mention it as '*Liophis*, n. sp.,' '*Hyperolius*, n. sp.,' '*Bufo*, n. sp.,' instead of '*Liophis regalis*, X, '*Hyperolius gigas*, Y, '*Bufo anomalus*, Z? It is by such malpractice that species come to have, from the origin, different names in different countries. Wherever I have met with specimens bearing such a name, I have accepted it when well chosen, or when I have been able to discover where or by whom it was

given; but having now found that such names are often joined to species for which they were not originally intended by the authors, I intend henceforth to reject them altogether, and not to introduce them into the synonymy unless published with a proper diagnosis.

“The number of specimens in the Collection of the British Museum, contained in this Catalogue, amounts to 1691.

“I am able to vouch for the correctness of the plates, which were executed by Mr. Ford under my inspection.”

JOHN EDWARD GRAY.

British Museum,
July 1, 1868.

SYNOPSIS OF THE FAMILIES

OF THE

BATRACHIA SALIENTIA

OR

ANURA.

A. Without tongue: **AGLOSSA.**

I. Ear perfectly developed; eustachian tubes united; cavum tympani entirely bony. **Aglossa haplosiphona.**

a. Maxillary teeth.

1. With webbed toes, dilated processes of sacral vertebra, and without paratoids. 1. **DACTYLETHRIDÆ.**

b. No maxillary teeth.

1. With webbed toes, dilated processes of sacral vertebra, and without paratoids. 2. **PIPIDÆ.**

II. Ear imperfectly developed; eustachian tubes separated; cavum tympani absent. **Aglossa diplosiphona.**

a. With two large horizontal fangs in the intermaxillary bone. 3. **MYOBATRACHIDÆ.**