

is similar to that of *L. longicaudata*, so is the shape of the posteriorly narrowed frontal shield, with truncate anterolateral angles, and the coloration, as described and figured by Werner, is highly suggestive of some examples of that species. The three shields behind the nostril ("postnasals" of Werner) cannot be regarded as a generic character, especially in view of the well-known variability of these shields in the type species of the genus *Lacerta*. Nor can generic importance be ascribed to the scaling of the lower eyelid if we bear in mind the modifications which it undergoes within the limits of the genera *Lacerta* and *Eremias*.

VI.—*Description of a new Engystomatid Frog of the Genus Breviceps from Namaqualand.* By G. A. BOULENGER, F.R.S.

[Plate II.]

Breviceps macrops. (Pl. II.)

Head comparatively larger and body less gibbose than in *B. gibbosus* and allies, eyes much larger, their diameter $6\frac{1}{2}$ to 8 times in the length of head and body; interorbital space narrow, barely half the width of the upper eyelid. Digits shorter and thicker than in the other species of the genus; first and second fingers equal, twice as long as the fourth, a little shorter than the third, which is not longer than the eye; toes extremely short, increasing in length from the rudimentary first to the fourth, which is not longer than the third finger, the fifth as long as the second; subarticular tubercles very small, very feebly prominent under the fingers,



Lower aspect of hand and foot.

absent under the toes; two large, feebly prominent metatarsal tubercles, the inner longer than its distance from the extremity of the first toe. Body with small smooth warts above, limbs and lower parts smooth. Pale sand-colour above, with

dark brown spots or marblings; a broad dark angular or curved band from one eyelid to the other across the back of the head and a narrow straight dark streak across the forehead, between the anterior borders of the upper eyelids; upper lip, limbs, and lower parts white.

	mm.
From snout to vent	48
Head	13
Width of head	17
Diameter of eye	6
Interorbital width	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Width of mouth	12
Fore limb	22
Hand	10
Hind limb	30
Foot	13

I am indebted to my friend Mr. L. Péringuey, Director of the South African Museum, for three specimens of this most distinct new species, one of which he has kindly presented to the British Museum. Mr. Péringuey, who has been able to keep them alive for some time, writes to me that they spend the whole day buried in damp sand. At night the pupil, which contracts to a narrow horizontal slit, expands over nearly the whole eye. Like *B. gibbosus*, this frog, when teased, or merely touched, inflates its body tremendously and utters shrill screams—a habit which seems to be frequent among burrowing batrachians whatever their affinities. Unlike *B. gibbosus*, *B. macrops* does not cover itself with a viscous secretion when alarmed.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE II.

Breviceps macrops, adult and half-grown.

VII.—Descriptions of a new Toad and a new Amphibienid from Mashonaland. By G. A. BOULENGER, F.R.S.

[Plate III.]

IN November last I had the pleasure of drawing attention in these 'Annals' to the Chirinda Forest in S.E. Mashonaland, where Mr. Guy H. K. Marshall had discovered a new chanaeleon of the genus *Rhampholeon*. I remarked that its reptile and batrachian fauna, when explored, was likely to afford further startling additions to South-African herpetology.