HOKKAIDO UNIVERSITY

Title	内蒙古採集の兩棲類及び爬蟲類
Author(s)	犬飼, 哲夫
Citation	札幌博物学会会報, 15(3), 168-171
Issue Date	1938-07-15
Doc URL	https://hdl.handle.net/2115/64232
Type	journal article
File Information	Vol.15No.3_004.pdf

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Amphibians and Reptiles Collected in Inner Mongolia

By

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We are particularly grateful that we could lead the expedition into Wanfu and Kholonboir in Inner Mongolia and into Khalassu on the eastern side of Great Khinghan Mountains in the summer of 1937 under the auspices of the Kanegafuchi-boseki Kaisha and devote much attention to the collection of amphibians and reptiles. Wanfu, situated in the northeastern part of Inner Mongolia and having a particular alkali soil, is probably one of the most interesting while least surveyed areas in Manchukuo. There a vast area was settled along the southern banks of the River Sungari for a grazing field for sheep and cattle in which the expedition worked. The greater part of the pasture is a little elevated and arid, covered with rather poor weeds of at most ½ meter height, while on the lower swampy section a rich vegetation is found around a chain of puddles of varying size most of which appear after a rain for a considerable length of time on account of difficult permeation of water through the alkali soil. Kholonboir is a place of special interest with its steppe, a vast arid plain destitute of trees and clothed with scanty low grass.

The district east of Great Khinghan Mountains is popular because of its mild climate, a rich vegetation and clear waters looking like an oasis in the gray Manchurian boundless plain. The herpetological fauna in these regions has not with certainty been completely known.

Reptilia

Sauria

Eremias argus PETERS

3 adult specimens were collected on September 6 on the sand hill in the transitional region between the steppe and the Mongolian desert 80 km southwest from Khailar of Kholonboir. The same species has been described by OKADA (1935) from Jehol. The habitat of the lizard has been hitherto known as northeastern China and Chosen (STEJNEGER, 1907, 1925) Mongolia, western and southern Manchukuo (MORI, 1927; SOWERBY, 1930).

Trans. Sapporo Nat. Hist. Soc., Vol. XV, Pt. 3, 1938.

Serpent

Elaphe dione PALLAS

1 adult male which is 73 cm in body length and 1 young male with 20 cm body length.

Both were captured on August 30 in the grazing field of Wanfu. The adult is marked with 4 rows of dark longitudinal bands on the dorsal which is tawny-olive in colour. The dusky crossbars on the dorsal as described by STEJNEGER (1907), SOWERBY (1923), MAKI (1927) and OKADA (1935) as one of the characteristics of the species is only valid in younger specimens. In the living adult the crossbars are almost invisible but they appear distinctly in the preservation. In the Harbin Museum there is a young specimen collected around the vicinity having the clear crossbars. This snake is distributed widely from Volga in southeastern Russia to the Amur country in the north and south to the island of Hainan.

Amyda sp.

The soft-shell turtle inhabits the Sungari drainage in great numbers and is caught for marketing as a delicacy. We obtained 3 examples from the natives in Wanfu. Though STEJNEGER reported in 1907 the Manchurian soft-shell turtle as *Amyda maackii* (BRANDT), at present I have not enough materials for the taxonomical study.

Amphibia

Bufonidae

Bufo bufo asiaticus STEINDACHNER

Many adults and a young.

A young toad was collected on September 9 around a stream (pH 8.1) in the steppe of Kholonboir about 70 km north of Khailar. The adults were captured on September 11 by the dredge for fishes set in the pools in Khalassu in Khinghan Mountains. Some were speared in the river at night being searched for by light when they were crouching on the bottom among the water grass, a kind of *Ranunculus* sp., perhaps ready for hibernation. By the way, the water in which *Ranunculus* sp. grows indicates unfronzen water in winter. The toad is found commonly in eastern Mongolia, Manchuria, Amurland, Chosen and Northeastern China from Peking to Shanghai.

Bufo raddei STRAUCH

Many adults.

During our sojourn in Wanfu from August 29 to September 1 we could obtain many specimens of the toad of varying size. Here in the day time when the air temperature was high, for example on August 30, 24.6°C at 10.20 a.m. and 23.6°C at 2.20 p.m., and in a sunny place higher, no toad was found in the field. However at sunset hundreds of them appeared on the open track in search of prey. It is truly surprising that they occur in so a large number in such an arid land. According to KOBA (1937) the toad lives under some shelters making a tunnel in the ground. Dr. UWATOKO, who has explored Kholonboir, kindly handed me a specimen which is completely covered with salts, obtained from the salty lake in the steppe near Dalai Nor.

STEJNEGER (1925) remarked that this toad inhabits rather dry regions, ranging from Central Asia to Amurland, including the eastern part of the desert Gobi, Alashen and Ordos in Mongolia, Peking and Chefu in the south and north to Dauria, the valley of the Amur and the Ussuri country. According to SHAW (1929) this toad seems to be rather rare in the vicinity of Peking.

Ranidae

Rana nigromaculata nigromaculata HALLOWELL

3 adult males were collected on August 30 in a pool which was 65 cm in depth and about 10 meters in diameter in the lowland of Wanfu. The water temperature was at that time 29.5°C at 3.30 p.m. and the pH value was 7.8. It is thus note worthy that the frog can inhabit an alkali soil region in Inner Mongolia. Usually the frog is widely distributed in eastern Asia from Vladiostok in the north to Bankok, Siam in the south. Amur, Ussuri district, Great Khinghan Mountains, Jehol, Chosen, North China, Shanghai, Hongkong, Japan proper, Kyushu and Shikoku are known as the habitat of the animal.

Rana amurensis BOULENGER

This is a common frog in the swampy district in the Kholonboir steppe north to Khailar and around the stream of Khalassu. The frog was originally described from Amurland and reported to occur in Saghalien, the Coast Province, southern Manchuria, Northern China and northeastern Tibet.

Rana asiatica (BEDRIAGA)

The frog occurs around the stream north to Khailar. Siberia, Mongolia, the northern portion of Ki-lin and Jehol are the hitherto known habitat of the species.

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Rotatorian Fauna of Manchoukuo

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With 10 text-figures

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Introduction

Regarding the Rotatorian fauna of Manchoukuo, 22 species have been described by M. UÉNO (1936), M. YAMASAKI (1937, 1938), the present writer (1937), and himself jointly with T. INUKAI (1938). In addition to them 31 forms are reported in this paper. Thence 53 species in all belong to 16 families as described in the following.

The materials upon which the present investigation is based, were obtained by the writer from the reservoir and a pond at Hsinking, two weedy pools at Khailassu situated on the eastern slope of the Great Khingan Mountains, a weedy pond and two pools at Hailar, and many small basins distributed in the drainage area of the Gan, one of the upper tributaries of the Amur, during the scientific expedition to Manchoukuo, despatched by the Kanebo Company under the directions of Dr. Y. SATO and Dr. T. INUKAI in August—September, 1937. The others were taken by Mr. T. ISIWATA in June—July, 1937 from