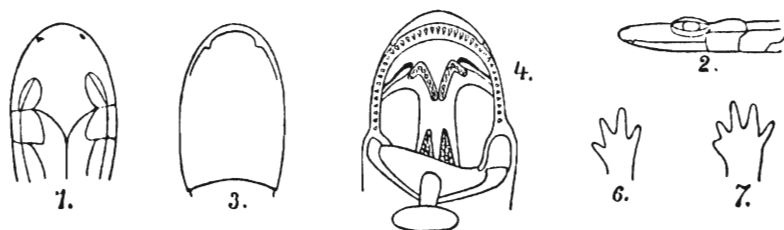


send posteriorly a short branch along the internal border of the choana, thus giving a hook-shaped outline to each series. The proportions are as follows :

Width of head five times in length of head and body. Length of head to axilla two and a third times into total length of head and body to groin. Tail one and a-half times the length of the head and body. When the limbs are extended, the posterior toes reach the distal extremities of the metacarpals. Thirteen costal folds. The width of the head is half the length to above the middle of the humerus. The canthus rostralis is distinct, though not so strongly marked as in *Gyrinophilus porphyriticus*. Total length, 152 mm. ; length to angle of mouth, 8 mm. ; to axilla, 23 mm. ; to groin, 53 mm. ; to extremity of vent, 62 mm.



*Gyrinophilus maculicaudus* Cope ;  $\frac{3}{4}$  natural size. Fig. 1, head, from above ; Fig. 2, head, from below ; Fig. 3, head, profile ; Fig. 4, interior of mouth,  $\frac{3}{4}$  natural size ; Fig. 5, fore foot, from below ; Fig. 6, hind foot.

In the adult specimens the subnarcal processes are quite prominent. In young specimens the ground-color is yellower than in those of medium and full size.

I propose to call this species *Gyrinophilus maculicaudus*. In its habitat in cold springs it resembles *Spelerpes ruber*, with which it agrees also in color. The *S. longicaudus* is a terrestrial species.

The first specimens of *G. maculicaudus* were found by Mr. E. R. Quick, of Brookville, Indiana.—E. D. COPE.

**An Apparently New Species of Chelys.**—Only one species of Chelys has been known so far, the well-known fimbriated or bearded turtle, *Chelys fimbriata* Schneid. from South America.

The osteological department of Clark University received lately from Ward's Natural Science Establishment, among other reptiles, a specimen of Chelys in alcohol. The label gave the locality Orinoco. When I examined the animal I found considerable differences from the description and figures given in Boulenger's catalogue.

Boulenger gives as one of the *generic* characters of *Chelys*, "jaws <sup>without</sup> <sup>horny beak".</sup> In the specimen before me (length of shell over curve, 430 mm.; breadth over curve, 376 mm.) there is a very well-developed horny beak, not different in structure from that of other Chelonians. The structure of the skull also showed <sup>3</sup> considerable differences with that figured by Boulenger. In Boulenger's figure the <sup>palates</sup> ~~plates~~ end in a sharp angle behind; this region is quite different in my specimen, and agrees exactly with the figure given by Cuvier (*Ossem. foss.*). But the greatest difference is to be seen in the lower face of the maxillary. In Boulenger's specimen the lower alveolar face of the maxillary at the middle is not broader than the vomer, forming about one-sixth of the breadth of the palate. My specimen agrees with Cuvier's figure; the alveolar surface is considerably broader than the vomer, and forms less than one-quarter of the breadth of the palate. The figure given by Hoffmann is like that of Cuvier. I do not know how the figures presented by Wagler and Bruehl compare with that of Boulenger, having the works of these authors not at hand. It is hardly possible that the figure published by Boulenger is incorrect, since all the other new figures in the catalogue are accurate. I can only think that there are two different species of *Chelys*. The common *Chelys fimbriata*, figured by Cuvier and Hoffman, and agreeing with my specimen, with well-developed horny beak, and an other one figured by Boulenger as *Chelys fimbriata*, which would represent a new species, which may be called, if future examination proves its distinctness, *Chelys boulengerii*.—G. BAUR, *Clark University, Worcester, Mass., Oct. 30th, 1890.*

**Snakes in Banana Bunches.**—EDITORS AMERICAN NATURALIST: Referring to the item "Snakes in Banana Bunches," in the AMERICAN NATURALIST for August, 1890, I wish to say that nearly two years ago I obtained a snake, brought to this city in a bunch of bananas. It being in winter the snake was still alive, though lethargic, and which I identified as a young *Boa imperator*. It is about three feet in length, and is now in the museum of this Society.—J. A. HENSHALL, *Secretary and Director Cincinnati Soc. Nat. Hist., Cincinnati, September 8, 1890.*

NOTE BY EDITOR.—Since our item above referred to, two cases of the *Boa imperator* having been found in banana bunches, in Philadelphia, have come under my notice. It is a coincidence that since the banana is believed by some to have been the "forbidden fruit" of the Garden of Eden, serpents should be so readily concealed in its fruit.—E. D. COPE.