

XXX. a female from Chiapam, of the natural size, also the inner side of the calf of the leg, to show the size of the scales.

### 3. *Ctenosaura quinquecarinata*.

*Cyclura quinquecarinata*, Gray, Zool. Misc. p. 59; Cope, Proc. Am. Phil. Soc. xi. 1871, p. 161.

*Enyaliosaurus quinquecarinatus*, Gray, Cat. Liz. p. 192.

*Ctenosaura quinquecarinata*, Sumichrast, Bibl. Univ. et Rev. Suisse, 1873, p. 259; and Bull. Soc. Zool. v. 1880, p. 175.

Hab. MEXICO, Oaxaca (*Boucard*), Tehuantepec (*Sumichrast*); HONDURAS (*Mus. Brit.*).

Tail much thickened and depressed near its base, verticillated, each verticellus formed by a ring of large strongly armed scutes, and by a ring of much narrower and unarmed scutes. The armature is confined to the upper and lateral surfaces of the tail, the lower side being comparatively smooth. The strongest spines are arranged in one median, and two or three lateral series.

Dorsal crest very low, obsolete in the sacral region. Upper parts and throat yellowish, marbled with black or brown.

### 4. *Ctenosaura defensor*.

*Cachryx defensor*, Cope, Proc. Ac. N. Sc. Phil. xviii. p. 124; Proc. Am. Phil. Soc. 1869, p. 169, t. 10; Bocourt, Miss. Sc. Mex., Rept. p. 143, t. 17 bis. figg. 12, 12a.

Hab. MEXICO, Yucatan (*A. Schott, U.S. Nat. Mus.*).

Extralimital are the following species: —

1. *Iguana acanthura*, Blainville, = *Cyclura acanthura*, Dum. & Bibr., = *Cyclura hemilopha*, Cope, Boulenger, = *Ctenosaura acanthura*, Bocourt (Miss. Sc. Mex., Rept. p. 138), = *Ctenosaura interrupta*, Bocourt (Le Naturaliste, 1882, p. 47). — Lower California.

2. *Ctenosaura erythromelas*, Boul. Proc. Zool. Soc. 1886, p. 241, t. 23; *Cachryx erythromelas*, Cope, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. 1886, p. 437. — Probably Lower California.

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

### Albert C. L. G. Günther (1830–1914)<sup>1</sup>

Albert Günther was born in 1830 in Esslingen, Württemberg (Germany). He entered the theological school at the University of Tübingen in 1847 and took holy orders in the Lutheran Church in 1851, although he subsequently turned to medical studies because of a longstanding interest in natural history and the influence of several professors. He received a doctorate in philosophy and arts in 1853 and went on to medical school, initially in Berlin, before teaching in Bonn, and finally completing his medical degree in Tübingen in 1857.

That same year, Günther offered his services to John E. Gray, Keeper of the Zoology Department at the British Museum, and was hired to catalogue the museum's snake collection, then the frogs, and finally the fishes, which occupied him for the rest of his life. Günther took over the Keeper's position from Gray in 1875 and, like Gray before him, aggressively built the collection, taking advantage of opportunities presented as the British Empire expanded. In 1879, he hired Georges Boulenger and placed him in charge of lower vertebrates, assuring that the long tradition of herpetological research at the British Museum would continue.

Günther founded *Zoological Record* in 1865, and it is still today the most complete index of the world's zoological literature. Günther's greatest zoological discovery occurred in 1867, when he announced the recognition that *Sphenodon* of New Zealand was not a lizard but the sole living representative of the order Rhynchocephalia. In addition, he published *Reptiles of British India* (1864), *The Gigantic Land-Tortoises (Living and Extinct)* (1877 [1878]), and the herpetological volume in the series *Biologia Centrali-Americana* (1885–1902). Günther's work on lower vertebrates was regularly cited by Charles Darwin in *Descent of Man* (1871), in which he depended heavily on Günther for his

information about sexual characters. In addition to the books, Günther published some 200 papers on herpetology, with a geographic emphasis on Australia, Africa, and Asia. Günther retired in 1895 and died at Kew, London in 1914.



Albert C. L. G. Günther in about 1900. Photograph courtesy of Kraig Adler and the British Museum (Natural History) Library.

<sup>1</sup> Source: Adler, K. 1989. Herpetologists of the past, pp. 5–141. In K. Adler (ed.), *Contributions to the History of Herpetology*. Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles, Contributions to Herpetology, vol. 5. Ithaca, New York.