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Catalog of snakes (Squamata: Serpentes) in the historical collection of Kosmos - Natural History Museum of the University of Pavia

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Abstract – The Natural History Museum of the University of Pavia holds a remarkable collection of snakes, dating back to the late 18th century. The collection was established with the acquisition of Cornelis van Hoey’s specimens in 1784 and grew over time through donations and expeditions by renowned naturalists such as Filippo De Filippi, Giuseppe Acerbi, Leonardo Fea, and Lamberto Loria. This study provides a revised catalog of the museum collection of snakes, which were identified based on external morphological characters. A total of 353 specimens from 16 families, 95 genera, and 145 species are listed, with particularly strong representation from Europe and South America. Notable specimens include a rare leucistic *Natrix tessellata* and two *Vipera berus* from the Po Plain population, which became extinct in the early 20th century. This updated catalog highlights the museum’s role in preserving biodiversity and providing a resource for future herpetological research.
Key words: catalog, historical collections, Pavia, snakes.

Riassunto – Catalogo dei serpenti della collezione storica di Kosmos - Museo di Storia Naturale dell'Università di Pavia.

Il Museo di Storia Naturale dell'Università di Pavia conserva una notevole collezione di serpenti, le cui origini risalgono alla fine del XVIII secolo. La raccolta ebbe inizio con l'acquisizione degli esemplari di Cornelis van Hoey nel 1784 e si è ampliata nel tempo grazie a donazioni e spedizioni di esploratori e naturalisti come Filippo De Filippi, Giuseppe Acerbi, Leonardo Fea e Lamberto Loria. Questo studio presenta un catalogo aggiornato basato sulla determinazione degli esemplari attraverso caratteri morfologici esterni. Sono stati elencati un totale di 353 esemplari appartenenti a 16 famiglie, 95 generi e 145 specie, con una forte rappresentanza di specie europee e sudamericane. Tra gli esemplari più significativi si annoverano una rara *Natrix tessellata* leucistica e due *Vipera berus* appartenenti alla popolazione della Pianura Padana estinta all’inizio del Novecento. Questo catalogo aggiornato sottolinea il ruolo fondamentale dei musei nella conservazione della biodiversità e come risorsa per le future ricerche erpetologiche.

Parole chiave: catalogo, collezioni storiche, Pavia, serpenti.

Introduction

The Natural History Museum of the University of Pavia houses historical collections of Zoology, Palaeontology and Comparative Anatomy, acquired since its establishment in 1771 by luminary physiologist Lazzaro Spallanzani (1729-1799). Throughout the 18th and 19th century, the University

of Pavia established itself as a major hub for scientific research in Europe, hosting and/or educating eminent naturalists such as Spallanzani himself, botanist Giovanni Antonio Scopoli (1723-1788), entomologist Giuseppe Gené (1800-1847), and zoologist Filippo De Filippi (1814-1867). The rapid expansion and development of the Natural History Museum was a natural consequence of this fervent intellectual activity, with scientists and curators either acquiring collections of zoological specimens kept in other museums in Europe or personally embarking on expeditions to collect fauna from the world over.

Although the museum suffered a period of sharp decline following the passing of director Pietro Pavesi (1844-1907), who vastly expanded the museum collections over his thirty-year mandate, recent efforts have revitalized the institution to its former glory, continuing its mission as a repository of precious knowledge on global biodiversity. Reptiles, and snakes in particular, are a strong suit of the Pavese collection. These specimens come not only from the collections of the original Natural History Museum, but also include items from the modern zoology collection (post 1960), that is still increasing, and the collections of the ancient Civic Museum of Natural History, all of which were merged into the University Museum in 1970 (Rovati & Barbagli, 2005) (Fig. 1). A preliminary paper describing the snake collection has been already published (Barbagli *et al.*, 2001) but a complete revised catalog was still lacking.

History of the snake collection

Based on archive documents and the original catalogs, the first batch of snakes bought for 1,110 Austrian Gulden for the Museum was probably part of the private collection of the Dutch physician Cornelis van Hoey (1717-1803) purchased in The Hague in 1784 (Pavesi, 1901; Molhuysen & Blok, 1933). This collection was particularly rich in fish, amphibians and reptiles (mostly preserved in alcohol) and included also specimens obtained from Prof. Martinus Wilhelm Schwencke (1707-1785), himself a physician from The Hague who also tended a private botanical garden (Pavesi, 1901; De Filippi, 1840; Heine, 1963). Filippo De Filippi (1840) reports that few specimens of the van Hoey's collection were originally part of the Museum of Dutch apothecary and businessman Albertus Seba (1665–1736) but van Hoey is not explicitly listed among the buyers of Seba's collection which was auctioned and dispersed in 1752 (Engel, 1961; Boeseman, 1970). Among Van Hoey's specimens there were 267 snakes that formed most of the original nucleus of the herpetological collection of the Pavia Museum. The original handwritten catalog dated 1787 reports that the museum housed 374 snakes which at that time constituted one of its most admired collections, as testified by James Edward Smith in the narration of his journey to Italy. "*The Abbé Serafino Volta, keeper of the public museum, very obligingly shewed (sic) us that collection, which is magnificently disposed. The serpents are uncommonly numerous and fine, as well as the fish; the minerals good; other departments in general not capital*" (Smith, 1793). Five specimens of snakes from the collections of the museum have been described and figured by Giovanni Antonio Scopoli in the third volume of the *Deliciae Florae et Faunae Insubricae* (Scopoli, 1788) including the three new species *Coluber anceps*, *Coluber lentiginosus* and *Coluber tamachia*, but unfortunately these specimens are now lost.

Eventually, Filippo De Filippi published a complete catalog of the snakes in 1840, which included the description of two new taxa (again, type specimens lost). A thorough inspection confirmed that many specimens, beside the regular label (Fig. 2), still retain handwritten labels from the De Filippi's catalog (1840), which are preserved as historical records (Fig. 3). He wrote that since the end of the 18th century "*to the present that collection has been increased only by a few Boas, a few Pythons, and a series of snakes from Egypt, which is part of a beautiful collection of animals from that region,*

sent as a gift to the Museum of Pavia by consul Acerbi”. Giuseppe Acerbi (1773-1846) was appointed Imperial consul in Alexandria of Egypt where he stayed for a few years (1828-1834) participating also in the Champollion expedition (Visconti, 1960) and sending over 30 species of reptiles back to Pavia (Acerbi, 1830). A few decades later (1873), another small batch of snakes from Egypt (5 species, including a few *Eryx jaculus* and *Platyceps florulentus*) was collected by Paolo Panceri (1833-1877) and donated to the Museum (Panceri & Gasco, 1876). On 1st January 1876, Pietro Pavesi (1844-1907) became the director of the Museum and started expanding the collections by buying new specimens or obtaining them in exchange from other institutions (especially from the Museo di Storia Naturale “Giacomo Doria” in Genoa) and explorers (Rovati & Barbagli, 2005; Rovati *et al.*, 2007; Poggi, 2017). Among these materials, the following are still present in the collections: 14 ex. (8 species) collected by Leonardo Fea (1852-1903) in Bhamo (Myanmar); 8 ex. (5 species) collected in Papua New Guinea and Java (Indonesia) by Lamberto Loria (1855-1913) and acquired in 1902 from Museo di Storia Naturale “Giacomo Doria” by Raffaello Gestro (1845-1936); 15 ex. (9 species) from Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) donated in 1890 by the food trader Enrico Garue, brother-in-law of local gymnasium dean Ercole Fossati (cf. Rovati & Barbagli, 2005) and finally a taxidermized *Boa constrictor* specimen from Brazil donated by the physician Carlo Speranza (1778-1867) in 1858.

Methods

The specimens were identified (mostly by LS) based on external morphological characters, i.e. scalation and color pattern when sufficiently discernible. Internal characters such as hemipenial morphology or visceral topography were not considered to avoid damaging the specimens by dissection. As the snakes were identified to the species level, subspecific differences were not considered either. Relevant character features for each species were obtained from the literature (both online and in the herpetological library at Kosmos) and visually matched with the features observed in each specimen. For exceptionally minute specimens and scalation patterns, scale counting was performed under a stereomicroscope.

While information on the sex of each individual would undoubtedly be valuable, it is not always reported in similar works. The same applies to the life stage, which has not been assessed here. However, all specimens have been documented photographically and photos are available on request. Taxonomy follows The Reptile Database (www.reptile-database.org; last accessed on 31 July 2025) and state-of-the-art literature. The following information is provided for each jar: locality to highest available detail, collection date (if known), collector (if known), number of specimens (some jars contain multiple specimens), reassigned catalog number, original catalog number from old card inventory. A specific name followed by an asterisk indicates a degree of uncertainty in identification, most often due to poor preservation of the specimen or overlap of distinctive features across multiple species. Further information, such as year of acquisition/donation, is also included where available. Lastly, individual remarks can be found for extraordinary specimens (e.g. rare color variations and members of now-extinct populations).

Results and Discussion

This effort to catalog and identify the snakes in the collection of the Natural History Museum at the University of Pavia according to current taxonomy has recovered 353 specimens belonging to 16 families, 95 genera, and 145 species. Of these, the majority originated from Europe and South

America, the former thanks to the obviously easier access to European (and especially Italian) snakes for an institution located in Italy and the latter mainly because of the Garue donation (see above). It is also noteworthy that the Natural History Museum houses several specimens acquired by eminent naturalists Leonardo Fea (1852-1903) and Lamberto Loria in South-east Asia and New Guinea, respectively. The expeditions by Fea and Loria gave a significant contribution to the study of local herpetofauna in their regions of interest, making the specimens conserved in Pavia of potentially high research interest for taxonomists and systematists working on species from those areas.

Most of the species preserved in the museum belong to the Colubridae *sensu lato* (i.e. including Natricidae, Dipsadidae, and Lamprophiidae), with Italian and European species such as the dice snake *Natrix tessellata* and the green whipsnake *Hierophis viridiflavus* once again featuring prominently with multiple specimens from different localities. The most exceptional item from this clade is undoubtedly CR0373, the leucistic/albinotic *N. tessellata* captured and deposited by Magnani in 1879 (Pirotta, 1879) and further examined by Gentilli (1996). This is one of only two known instances of leucism/albinism in dice snakes until 2020, when a clutch yielded five albino individuals in Slovakia (Mebert & Hengeller, 2011; Papezikova *et al.*, 2020). Albinism is generally rare in wild animals and reptiles are no exception, as the absence of melanin disrupts camouflage and protection against UV rays. On the other hand, melanism is relatively common in *N. tessellata* (Mebert & Hengeller, 2011), possibly thanks to enhanced thermoregulation due to darker skin.

Another noteworthy colubrid specimen is CR0417, a hissing sand snake *Psammophis sibilans* that could be the topotype identified by De Filippi as *Dryophis schlegelii* in 1840 and thus of special interest for the taxonomy of *P. sibilans* and the systematics of *Psammophis* as a whole. Lastly, the Natural History Museum of Pavia is home to two specimens of *Vipera berus* (Fig. 4) from the long-extirpated population in the Po plain (Scali & Gentilli, 1998; Gentilli *et al.*, 2006). Bendiscioli (1826) described specimens of this population as *Vipera limnaea*, although this nomenclature has never been adopted. Only about 34 preserved specimens from this population are currently known worldwide and the dynamics behind its disappearance remain obscure, making the two individuals housed in Pavia a precious resource to trace the biogeographic history of *V. berus* in Italy.

Conclusions

The cataloguing and taxonomic revision of the snake collection at the Natural History Museum of the University of Pavia has reaffirmed its long standing scientific significance. With 353 specimens and 145 species of diverse origins and historical significance, the collection provides valuable insight into global herpetological diversity. The presence of rare and unique specimens including a leucistic *Natrix tessellata*, and individuals from the now-extirpated Po plain population of *Vipera berus* adds further value to this repository of biodiversity. Ultimately, such collections embody the crucial role of natural history museums in support of biological research worldwide.

Catalog

Family **LEPTOTYPHLOPIDAE** Stejneger 1892

Genus *Siagonodon* Peters 1881

Siagonodon septemstriatus (Schneider 1801)

BRAZIL, no date indication, 2 specimens: CR0315-0316. Formerly 117.206.

Family **TYPHLOPIDAE** Merrem 1820

Genus *Argyrophis* Gray 1845

Argyrophis diardii (Schlegel 1839)

No locality or date indication 1 specimen: CR0309. Formerly 114.201.

Argyrophis muelleri (Schlegel 1839)

INDONESIA, Sumatra, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0312. Formerly 115.203.

Genus *Cubatyplops* Hedges, Marion, Lipp, Marin and Vidal 1014

Cubatyplops cf. epactius (Thomas 1968)

ANTILLES, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0313. Formerly 116.204.

Genus *Indotyplops* Hedges, Marion, Lipp, Marin and Vidal 1014

Indotyplops braminus (Daudin 1803)

MYANMAR, Bhamo, no date indication, Leonardo Fea, acquired 1893, 4 specimens: CR0305-0308. Formerly 113.200. Desiccated.

Genus *Typhlops* Oppel, 1811

*Typhlops cf. lumbricalis** (Linnaeus 1758)

ANTILLES, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0314. Formerly 116.205.

Genus *Xerotyplops* Hedges, Marion, Lipp, Marin and Vidal 2014

Xerotyplops vermicularis (Merrem 1820)

GREECE, no date indication, 2 specimens: CR0310-0311. Formerly 114.202.

Family **ANILIIDAE** Stejneger 1907

Genus *Anilius* Oken 1816

Anilius scytale (Linnaeus 1758)

SURINAM, no date indication, 9 specimens: CR0342-0349, CR1365 (taxidermy). Formerly 130.233-130.237, 130.239.

Family **CYLINDROPHIIDAE** Fitzinger 1843

Genus *Cylindrophis* Wagler 1828

Cylindrophis maculatus (Linnaeus 1758)

SRI LANKA, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0355. Formerly 132.243.

Cylindrophis ruffus (Laurenti 1768)

MYANMAR, Bhamo, no date indication, Leonardo Fea, acquired 1893, 3 specimens: CR0352-0354. Formerly 131.242.

INDONESIA, Java, no date indication, 2 specimens: CR0350-0351. Formerly 131.240-131.241.

Family **XENOPELTIDAE** Bonaparte 1845

Genus *Xenopeltis* Reinwardt *in* Boie 1827

Xenopeltis unicolor Reinwardt *in* Boie 1827

SUNDA ISLANDS, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0356. Formerly 133.244.

Family **BOIDAE** Gray 1825

Genus *Boa* Linnaeus 1758

Boa constrictor Linnaeus 1758

BRAZIL, no date indication, 5 specimens: CR0333-0334, CR0334bis, CR1352 (taxidermy), CR1354 (taxidermy). Formerly 126.226-126.229. Specimen CR1352 donated by cavalier Speranza, 1858.

Boa imperator Daudin 1803

TROPICAL AMERICA, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0335. Formerly 127.230.

Genus *Corallus* Daudin 1803

Corallus caninus (Linnaeus 1758)

BRAZIL, no date indication, 2 specimens: CR0327-0328. Formerly 123.220-123.221.

Corallus hortulana (Linnaeus 1758)

SOUTH AMERICA, no date indication, 2 specimens: CR0325-0326. Formerly 122.218-122.219. Specimen CR0326 desiccated.

Genus *Epicrates* Wagler 1830

Epicrates cenchria (Linnaeus 1758)

BRAZIL, no date indication, 3 specimens: CR0320bis (taxidermy), CR0322-0323. Formerly 121.212, 121.215, 121.217.

Epicrates crassus (Cope 1862)

BRAZIL, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0324. Formerly 121.213.

Genus *Eunectes* Wagler 1830

Eunectes murinus (Linnaeus 1758)

BRAZIL, no date indication, 2 specimens: CR0331-0332. Formerly 125.224-125.225. Specimen CR0331 contains an ingesta (rodent).

Family **CANDOIIDAE** Pyron, Reynolds and Burbrink 1014

Genus *Candoia* Gray 1842

Candoia carinata (Schneider 1801)

INDONESIA, Java, no date indication, Lamberto Loria, acquired 1902, 1 specimen: CR0329. Formerly 124.222.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA, "British New Guinea", no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0330. Formerly 124.223.

Family **ERYCIDAE** Bonaparte 1840

Genus *Eryx* Daudin, 1803

Eryx colubrinus (Linnaeus 1758)

EGYPT, 1873, Paolo Panceri, 1 specimen: CR0337. Formerly 128.231.

Eryx jaculus (Linnaeus 1758)

EGYPT, 1873, Paolo Panceri, 4 specimens: CR0336, CR0338-0340. Formerly 128.231, 129.232.

Family **PYTHONIDAE** Fitzinger 1826

Genus *Malayopython* Reynolds, Niemiller and Revell 2014

Malayopython reticulatus (Schneider 1801)

BRAZIL (in error), no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0321. Formerly 121.214.

Genus *Python* Daudin 1803

Python molurus (Linnaeus 1758)

INDIA, no date indication, 2 specimens: CR0319 (taxidermy), CR1356 (taxidermy). Formerly 119.209-119.210.

Python sebae (Gmelin 1789)

GUINEA, no date indication, 2 specimens: CR0317-0318. Formerly 118.207-118.208.

Family **COLUBRIDAE** Oppel 1811

Genus *Ahaetulla* Link 1807

*Ahaetulla nasuta** (Lacépède 1789)

BRAZIL (in error), no date indication, Enrico Garue, donated, 1 specimen: CR0553. Formerly 214.434.

MYANMAR, Bhamo, no date indication, Leonardo Fea, acquired 1893, 1 specimen: CR0554. Formerly 214.435.

EAST INDIES, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0552. Formerly 214.433.

*cf. SRIKANTHAN *et al.* (2022)

Ahaetulla prasina (Boie 1827)

INDIAN ARCHIPELAGO, no date indication, 2 specimens: CR0550-0551. Formerly 213.431-213.432.

Genus *Boiga* Fitzinger 1826

Boiga dendrophila (Boie 1827)

MALAYSIA, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0515. Formerly 201.403.

Boiga irregularis (Bechstein 1802)

SULAWESI, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0516. Formerly 202.404.

Genus *Chironius* Fitzinger 1826

Chironius carinatus (Linnaeus 1758)

BRAZIL, no date indication, 5 specimens: CR0430, CR0432-0435. Formerly 164.321, 164.323-164.326.

Chironius flavolineatus (Jan 1863)

BRAZIL, Rio de Janeiro, no date indication, Enrico Garue, donated 1890, 2 specimens: CR0437-0438. Formerly 165.328-165.329.

Chironius fuscus (Linnaeus 1758)

BRAZIL, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0431. Formerly 164.322.

TROPICAL AMERICA, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0436. Formerly 165.327.

Genus *Chrysopelea* Boie 1826

Chrysopelea ornata (Shaw 1802)

INDIA, no date indication, 2 specimens: CR0557-0558. Formerly 217.438-217.439.

Genus *Coelognathus* Fitzinger 1843

Coelognathus radiatus (Boie 1827)

INDIA, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0429bis. Formerly 163.320.

Coelognathus sp.

MALAYSIA, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0559. Formerly 217.440.

Genus *Coluber* Linnaeus 1758

Coluber constrictor Linnaeus 1758

NORTH AMERICA, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0397. Formerly 150.286.

Genus *Coronella* Laurenti 1768

Coronella austriaca Laurenti 1768

EUROPE, no date indication, 5 specimens: CR0491-0495. Formerly 185.378, 185.380-185.381.

ITALY, Pavia, no date indication, 2 specimens: CR0496-0497. Formerly 185.382.

ITALY, Ottobiano, Pavia, 1881, 1 specimen: CR0498. Formerly 185.383.

Genus *Dendrelaphis* Boulenger 1890

*Dendrelaphis ashoki** Vogel & Van Rooijen 2011

INDIA, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0441. Formerly 166.332.

Dendrelaphis calligaster (Günther 1867)

PAPUA NEW GUINEA, "British New Guinea", no date indication, Lamberto Loria, acquired by Raffaello Gestro in 1902, 2 specimens: CR0443-0444. Formerly 167.334.

Dendrelaphis macrops (Günther 1877)

PAPUA NEW GUINEA, "British New Guinea", no date indication, Lamberto Loria, acquired by Raffaello Gestro in 1902, 3 specimens: CR0444bis, CR0444ter, CR0444quater. Formerly 168.335.

Dendrelaphis pictus (Gmelin 1789)

MYANMAR, Bhamo, no date indication, Leonardo Fea, acquired 1893, 1 specimen: CR0442. Formerly 166.333.

INDIA, no date indication, 2 specimens: CR0439-0440. Formerly 166.330-166.331.

Genus *Dispholidus* Duvernoy 1832

Dispholidus typus (Smith 1828)

SOUTHERN AFRICA, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0555. Formerly 215.436.

Genus *Drymarchon* Fitzinger 1843

Drymarchon corais (Boie 1827)

SOUTH AMERICA, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0423. Formerly 158.313. Juvenile specimen.

Genus *Eirenis* Jan 1863

Eirenis modestus (Martin 1838)

ASIA MINOR, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0504. Formerly 193.392.

Genus *Elaphe* Fitzinger 1833

Elaphe quatuorlineata (Bonnaterre 1790)

ITALY, Naples, 1863, 1 specimen: CR0426. Formerly 160.316.

Genus *Hemorrhois* Boie 1826

Hemorrhois hippocrepis (Linnaeus 1758)

ITALY, Sassari (maybe in error), no date indication, donated by Felice Mazza in 1899, 1 specimen: CR0415. Formerly 155.306.

ITALY, Cagliari, no date indication, donated by Felice Mazza in 1903, 1 specimen: CR0416. Formerly 155.307.

Genus *Hierophis* Fitzinger in Bonaparte 1834

Hierophis viridiflavus (Lacépède 1789)

SOUTHERN EUROPE, no date indication, 7 specimens. CR0400-0401 (taxidermy), CR0402-0405, CR0402bis. Formerly 152.288-152.294

ITALY, Pavia, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0406. Formerly 152.295.

ITALY, Pavia, 1873, 1 specimen: CR0407. Formerly 152.296.

ITALY, Sant'Antioco/Asinara, no date indication, Paolo Magretti, 1 specimen: CR0622. Formerly 152.297.

Genus *Lampropeltis* Fitzinger 1843

Lampropeltis elapsoides (Holbrook 1838)

UNITED STATES, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0500. Formerly 187.386.

Lampropeltis holbrooki Stejneger 1902

NORTH AMERICA, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0498bis. Formerly 186.384.

Genus *Leptophis* Bell 1825

Leptophis ahaetulla (Linnaeus 1758)

SOUTH AMERICA, no date indication, 3 specimens: CR0446-0447, CR0446bis. Formerly 170.338-170.339.

*Leptophis cupreus** (Cope 1868)

SOUTH AMERICA, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0445. Formerly 170.337.

Leptophis nebulosus Oliver 1942

SOUTH AMERICA (likely in error), no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0448. Formerly 170.340.

Genus *Lycodon* Fitzinger 1826

Lycodon anamallensis Günther 1864

INDIA, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0390. Formerly 146.279.

Lycodon aulicus (Linnaeus 1758)

INDIA, no date indication, 2 specimens: CR0391-0392. Formerly 146.280.

BRAZIL (in error), no date indication, Enrico Garue, donated, 1 specimen: CR0383. Formerly 142.273.

Genus *Masticophis* Baird and Girard 1853

Masticophis flagellum (Shaw 1802)

NORTH AMERICA, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0396. Formerly 150.285.
UNITED STATES, no date indication, 2 specimens: CR0398-0399. Formerly 151.287.

Genus *Oligodon* Fitzinger 1826

Oligodon octolineatus (Schneider 1801)

MALAYSIA, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0503. Formerly 190.389.

*Oligodon purpurascens** (Schlegel 1837)

SULAWESI, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0517. Formerly 202.405.

Genus *Opheodrys* Fitzinger 1843

Opheodrys aestivus (Linnaeus 1766)

UNITED STATES, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0503bis. Formerly 192.391.

Genus *Oxybelis* Wagler 1830

Oxybelis aeneus (Wagler 1824)

BRAZIL, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0556. Formerly 216.437.

Genus *Pantherophis* Fitzinger 1843

Pantherophis spiloides (A.M.C. Duméril, Bibron and A.H.A. Duméril 1854)

UNITED STATES, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0427. Formerly 161.317.

Genus *Philothamnus* Smith 1847

Philothamnus irregularis (Leach 1819)

TROPICAL AFRICA, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR1431. Formerly 169.336.

Genus *Platyceps* Blyth 1860

Platyceps florulentus (Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire 1827)

EGYPT, no date indication, 6 specimens: CR0409-0413, CR0860. Formerly 154.300-154.304.

EGYPT, 1873, Paolo Panceri, 2 specimens: CR0543-0544. Formerly 211.426.

Platyceps najadum (Eichwald 1831)

CROATIA, Dalmatia, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0408. Formerly 153.299.

Genus *Ptyas* Fitzinger 1843

Ptyas mucosa (Linnaeus 1758)

MYANMAR, Bhamo, no date indication, Leonardo Fea, donated 1885, 1 specimen: CR0395bis.
Formerly 149.284.

Genus *Spalerosophis* Jan 1865

Spalerosophis diadema (Schlegel 1837)

EGYPT, 1873, Paolo Panceri, 1 specimen: CR0414. Formerly 154.305.

EGYPT, no date indication, 2 specimens: CR0418-0419. Formerly 156.309.

Genus *Spilotes* Wagler 1830

Spilotes pullatus (Linnaeus 1758)

SOUTH AMERICA, no date indication, 3 specimens: CR0420-0422. Formerly 157.310-157.312.

BRAZIL, Rio de Janeiro, no date indication, Enrico Garue, 1 specimen: CR0499. Formerly 186.385.

Genus *Stegonotus* Duméril, Bibron, and Duméril 1854

Stegonotus reticulatus Boulenger 1895

PAPUA NEW GUINEA, Bara-Bara, no date indication, Lamberto Loria, acquired by Raffaello Gestro in 1902, 1 specimen: CR0393. Formerly 147.281.

Genus *Tantilla* Baird and Girard 1853

Tantilla melanocephala (Linnaeus 1758)

TROPICAL AMERICA, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0567. Formerly 219.450.

Genus *Zamenis* Wagler 1830

Zamenis longissimus (Laurenti 1768)

EUROPE, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0428. Formerly 162.318.

ITALY, Pavia, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0429. Formerly 162.319. Juvenile specimen.

NO LOCALITY, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0625.

Zamenis scalaris (Schinz 1822)

NO LOCALITY, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0341 (taxidermy).

Zamenis situla (Linnaeus 1758)

CROATIA, Dalmatia, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0424. Formerly 159.314. Juvenile specimen, desiccated.

EUROPE, 1852, 1 specimen: CR0425. Formerly 160.315.

SOUTH AMERICA (in error), no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0563. Formerly 218.444.

Family **DIPSADIDAE** Bonaparte 1840

Genus *Chlorosoma* Wagler 1830

Chlorosoma viridissimum (Linnaeus 1758)

GUYANA, no date indication, 3 specimens: CR0534-0536. Formerly 208.418-208.420.

Genus *Clelia* Fitzinger 1826

Clelia clelia (Daudin 1803)

BRAZIL, no date indication, 2 specimens: CR0531-0532. Formerly 206.415-206.416.

Genus *Diadophis* Baird and Girard 1853

Diadophis punctatus (Linnaeus 1766)

NORTH AMERICA, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0501. Formerly 188.387. Desiccated.

Genus *Dipsas* Laurenti 1768

Dipsas pavonina Schlegel 1837

GUYANA, no date indication, 3 specimens: CR0449-0450, CR0449bis. Formerly 171.341-171.342.

Genus *Erythrolamprus* Boie 1826

Erythrolamprus aesculapii (Linnaeus 1758)

SOUTH AMERICA, no date indication, 9 specimens: CR0560-0562, CR0564-0566, CR0564bis-0564ter, CR0565bis. Formerly 218.441-218.442, 218.444-218.449.

SOUTHERN AFRICA (in error), no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0581. Formerly 226.466.

Erythrolamprus cobella (Linnaeus 1758)

BRAZIL (?), no date indication, 12 specimens: CR0475-0486. Formerly 181.369-181.374

Erythrolamprus dorsocorallinus (Esqueda, Natera, La Marca, and Ilija-Fistar 2007)

SOUTH AMERICA, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0458. Formerly 174.350.

Erythrolamprus mimus (Cope 1868)

BRAZIL, no date indication. 1 specimen. CR0530. Formerly 205.414.

Erythrolamprus oligolepis (Boulenger 1905)

SOUTH AMERICA, no date indication 1 specimen: CR0459. Formerly 174.351.

Erythrolamprus poecilogyrus (Wied-Neuwied 1824)

BRAZIL, Rio de Janeiro, no date indication, Enrico Garue, donated 1890, 3 specimens: CR0452-0453, CR0474. Formerly 172.344-172.345, 180.368.

BOLIVIA, no date indication, Luigi Balzan, acquired by Raffaello Gestro in 1902, 1 specimen: CR0454. Formerly 172.346.

Erythrolamprus reginae (Linnaeus 1758)

SOUTH AMERICA, no date indication, 2 specimens: CR0456, CR0460. Formerly 174.348, 174.352.

Erythrolamprus typhlus (Linnaeus 1758)

SOUTH AMERICA, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0455. Formerly 173.347.

Erythrolamprus zweifeli (Roze 1959)

SOUTH AMERICA, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0457. Formerly 174.349.

Genus *Farancia* Gray 1842

Farancia erythrogramma (Palissot de Beauvois in Latreille 1802)

UNITED STATES, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0506. Formerly 195.394.

Genus *Helicops* Wagler 1828

Helicops angulatus (Linnaeus 1758)

SURINAM, no date indication, 5 specimens: CR1370 (taxidermy), CR0385-0388. Formerly 144.275-144.277.

Genus *Heterodon* Latreille in Sonnini and Latreille 1801

Heterodon platirhinus Latreille in Sonnini and Latreille 1801

UNITED STATES, no date indication, 3 specimens: CR0468, CR0470bis, CR0502. Formerly 178.362, 178.364, 189.388.

Heterodon simus (Linnaeus 1766)

UNITED STATES, no date indication, 2 specimens: CR0469-0470. Formerly 178.363.

Genus *Hydrodynastes* Fitzinger 1843

Hydrodynastes bicinctus (Hermann 1804)

BRAZIL, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0487. Formerly 182.375.

Genus *Hydrops* Wagler 1830

Hydrops martii (Wagler 1824)

BRAZIL, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0490. Formerly 184.376.

Genus *Imantodes* Duméril 1853

Imantodes cenchoa (Linnaeus 1758)

BRAZIL, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0518. Formerly 203.406.

Genus *Leptodeira* Fitzinger 1843

Leptodeira annulata (Linnaeus 1758)

SOUTH AMERICA, no date indication, 6 specimens: CR0519-0524. Formerly 204.407-204.409.

Genus *Lygophis* Fitzinger 1843

Lygophis lineatus (Linnaeus 1758)

SURINAM, no date indication, 3 specimens: CR0471-0473. Formerly 179.365-179.367.

Genus *Oxyrhopus* Wagler 1830

Oxyrhopus petolaris (Linnaeus 1758)

BRAZIL, no date indication, 4 specimens: CR0526-0529. Formerly 205.411-205.413.

Genus *Palusophis* Montingelli, Grazziotin, Battilana, Murphy, Zhang and Zaher, 2018

*Palusophis bifossatus** (Raddi 1820)

BRAZIL, Rio de Janeiro, no date indication, Enrico Garue, donated 1890, 1 specimen: CR0451.
Formerly 172.343.

Genus *Philodryas* Wagler 1830

Philodryas olfersii (Lichtenstein 1823)

SOUTH AMERICA, no date indication, 2 specimens: CR0537-0538. Formerly 209.421.

Philodryas patagoniensis (Girard 1858)

BRAZIL, Rio de Janeiro, no date indication, Enrico Garue, donated 1890, 2 specimens: CR0539-0540. Formerly 210.422-210.423.

Genus *Pseudoboa* Schneider 1801

Pseudoboa nigra (A.M.C. Duméril, Bibron and A.H.A. Duméril 1854)

BRAZIL, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0525. Formerly 205.410.

Genus *Sibon* Fitzinger 1826

Sibon nebulatus (Linnaeus 1758)

SURINAM, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0506bis. Formerly 196.395.

Genus *Thamnodynastes* Wagler 1830

Thamnodynastes pallidus (Linnaeus 1758)

BRAZIL, Rio de Janeiro, no date indication, Enrico Garue, donated 1890, 1 specimen: CR0533.
Formerly 207.417.

INDIA (in error), no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0514. Formerly 200.402.

Genus *Xenodon* Boie 1826

Xenodon merremii (Wagler 1824)

SURINAM, no date indication, 2 specimens: CR0462, CR0464bis. Formerly 176.355, 176.358.

Xenodon pulcher (Jan 1863)

BRAZIL, no date indication, Enrico Garue, 1 specimen: CR0467. Formerly 177.361.

Xenodon rabdocephalus (Wied-Neuwied 1824)

TROPICAL AMERICA, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0460bis. Formerly 175.353.

Xenodon severus (Linnaeus 1758)

SURINAM, no date indication, 5 specimens: CR0461, CR0463-0466. Formerly 176.354, 176.356-176.357, 176.359-176.360.

Family **NATRICIDAE** Bonaparte 1840

Genus *Amphiesma* A.M.C. Duméril, Bibron, and A.H.A. Duméril 1854

Amphiesma stolatum (Linnaeus 1758)

INDIA, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0378. Formerly 140.268.

MYANMAR, Bhamo, no date indication, Leonardo Fea, acquired 1893, 2 specimens: CR0379-0380. Formerly 140.269.

Genus *Fowlea* Theobald 1868

Fowlea piscator (Schneider 1799)

MYANMAR, Bhamo, no date indication, Leonardo Fea, acquired 1893, 2 specimens: CR1432-1433. Formerly 137.259.

INDIA, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0368. Formerly 137.257.

Fowlea flavipunctatus (Hallowell 1860)

INDIA, no date indication, 2 specimens: CR0369-0369bis. Formerly 137.258.

Genus *Natrix* Laurenti 1768

Natrix sp.

EUROPA, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0358 (taxidermy). Formerly 135.246.

Natrix helvetica (Lacépède 1789)

EUROPE, no date indication, 5 specimens: CR0360-0363, CR0859. Formerly 135.249-135.251, 135.255bis. Difficult to distinguish from *N. natrix* without more detailed locality information.

ITALY, Pavia, no date indication, 2 specimens: CR0364, CR0366bis. Formerly 135.252, 135.255.

Natrix maura (Linnaeus 1758)

EUROPE, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0376. Formerly 139.266bis.

ITALY, Porto Torres, 1878, Paolo Magretti, 1 specimen: CR0374. Formerly 139.265.

ITALY, Sassari, no date indication, donated by Felice Mazza in 1899, 1 specimen: CR0375. Formerly 139.266.

*Natrix natrix** (Linnaeus 1758)

EUROPE, no date indication, 3 specimens: CR0359, CR0365-0366. Formerly 135.248, 135.253-135.254. Difficult to distinguish from *N. helvetica* without more detailed locality information.

Natrix tessellata (Laurenti 1768)

EUROPE, no date indication, 2 specimens: CR0370-0371. Formerly 138.260, 138.262.

ITALY, Pavia, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0372. Formerly 138.263.

ITALY, Pavia, Cantone delle tre miglia, 09.08.1879, donated by Magnani in 1880, 1 specimen: CR0373. Formerly 138.264. Leucistic/albinotic specimen (cf. Pirotta, 1879; Mebert & Hengeller, 2011; Papezikova *et al.*, 2020).

Genus *Rhabdophis* Fitzinger 1843

*Rhabdophis subminiatus** (Schlegel 1837)

INDIA, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0377. Formerly 140.267.

Genus *Thamnophis* Fitzinger 1843

Thamnophis marcianus (Baird and Girard 1853)

NORTH AMERICA, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0357. Formerly 134.245.

Genus *Tropidonophis* Jan 1863

Tropidonophis doriae (Boulenger 1898)

PAPUA NEW GUINEA, "British New Guinea, Haveri", no date indication, Lamberto Loria, acquired by Raffaello Gestro in 1902, 1 specimen: CR0384. Formerly 143.274.

Genus *Xenochrophis* Günther 1864

Xenochrophis trianguligerus (Boie 1827)

INDONESIA, Java, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0367. Formerly 136.256.

Xenochrophis vittatus (Linnaeus 1758)

INDONESIA, Java, no date indication, 2 specimens: CR0381-0382. Formerly 141.270-141.271.

Family **HOMALOPSIDAE** Bonaparte 1845

Genus *Enhydris* Sonnini and Latreille 1802

Enhydris enhydris (Schneider 1799)

INDIA, no date indication, 2 specimens: CR0509-0510. Formerly 198.398-198.399.

Genus *Homalopsis* Kuhl and Hasselt 1822

Homalopsis buccata (Linnaeus 1758)

JAVA, no date indication, 3 specimens: CR0511-0513. Formerly 199.400-199.401.

Genus *Myrrophis* Kumar, Sanders, George and Murphy, 2012

Myrrophis bennettii (Gray 1842)

JAVA (in error), no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0507. Formerly 197.396.

Myrrophis chinensis (Gray 1842)

INDIAN ARCHIPELAGO (in error), no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0508. Formerly 198.397.

Family **LAMPROPHIIDAE** Fitzinger 1843

Genus *Cyclocorus* A.M.C. Duméril, Bibron and A.H.A. Duméril 1854

Cyclocorus lineatus (Reinhardt 1843)

PHILIPPINES, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0389. Formerly 145.278.

Genus *Duberria* Fitzinger 1826

Duberria lutrix (Linnaeus 1758)

SOUTH AFRICA, Cape of Good Hope, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0505. Formerly 194.393.

Genus *Homoroselaps* Jan 1858

Homoroselaps lacteus (Linnaeus 1758)

SOUTHERN AFRICA, 1854, 1 specimen: CR0582. Formerly 227.467.

Genus *Malpolon* Fitzinger 1826

*Malpolon monspessulanus** (Hermann 1804)

MEDITERRANEAN COAST, no date indication, 2 specimens: CR0541-0542. Formerly 211.424-211.425. Difficult to distinguish from *M. insignitus* without detailed locality information.

Genus *Psammophis* H. Boie 1825

Psammophis schokari (Forskål 1775)

AFRICA, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0548. Formerly 212.429.

Psammophis sibilans (Linnaeus 1758)

EGYPT, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0417. Formerly 156.308. Likely label switch with specimen no. CR0414.

AFRICA, no date indication, 4 specimens: CR0545-0547, CR0549. Formerly 212.427-212.428, 212.430.

Genus *Pseudaspis* Fitzinger 1843

Pseudaspis cana (Linnaeus 1758)

SOUTHERN AFRICA, no date indication, 2 specimens: CR0394-0395. Formerly 148.282-148.283.

Genus *Pseudoeryx* Fitzinger 1826

Pseudoeryx plicatilis (Linnaeus 1758)

BRAZIL, no date indication, 2 specimens: CR0488-0489. Formerly 183.376.

Family ELAPIDAE Boie 1827

Genus *Bungarus* Daudin 1803

Bungarus candidus (Linnaeus 1758)

INDIA (in error), no date indication, 2 specimens: CR0571-0572. Formerly 223.456-223.457.

Bungarus fasciatus (Schneider 1801)

INDIES, no date indication, 2 specimens: CR0570-0570bis. Formerly 222.453-222.454.

Genus *Hydrophis* Latreille 1801

Hydrophis cyanocinctus Daudin 1803

JAPAN, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0568. Formerly 220.451.

Genus *Laticauda* Laurenti 1768

Laticauda laticaudata (Linnaeus 1758)

INDIAN SEAS, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0569. Formerly 221.452.

Genus *Micrurus* Wagler 1824

Micrurus corallinus (Merrem 1820)

BRAZIL, Rio de Janeiro, no date indication, Enrico Garue, Donated 1890, 2 specimens: CR0591-0592. Formerly 229.474.

Micrurus filiformis (Günther 1859)

BRAZIL, no date indication, 3 specimens: CR0586-0588. Formerly 229.472.

Micrurus lemniscatus (Linnaeus 1758)

BRAZIL, no date indication, 3 specimens: CR0584 (taxidermy), CR0585, CR0590. Formerly 229.470-229.471, 229.473.

Micrurus nigrocinctus (Girard 1854)

BRAZIL, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0589. Formerly 229.472.

Micrurus surinamensis (Cuvier 1816)

SURINAME, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0583. Formerly 228.468.

Genus *Naja* Laurenti 1768

Naja haje (Linnaeus 1758)

EGYPT, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0573. Formerly 224.458.

*Naja kaouthia** Lesson 1831

BENGAL, no date indication, 2 specimens: CR0578-0579. Formerly 225.463-225.464. Difficult to distinguish from other Asian cobras in the absence of clear neck markings.

*Naja naja** (Linnaeus 1758)

EGYPT (in error), no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0576. Formerly 224.461. Misidentified as *N. haje* by De Filippi (1840). Difficult to distinguish from other Asian cobras in the absence of clear neck markings.

BENGAL, no date indication, 2 specimens: CR0577, CR0580. Formerly 225.462, 225.465.

Naja nivea (Linnaeus 1758)

EGYPT (in error), no date indication, 2 specimens: CR0574-0575. Formerly 224.459-224.460. Misidentified as *N. haje* by De Filippi (1840).

Family **VIPERIDAE** Oppel 1811

Genus *Agkistrodon* Palisot de Beauvois 1799

*Agkistrodon contortrix** (Linnaeus 1766)

NORTH AMERICA, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0615. Formerly 235.497. Discoloration and vague locality information make it difficult to determine whether the specimen is *A. contortrix* or *A. laticinctus*.

Genus *Bothrops* Wagler 1824

Bothrops jararaca (Wied-Neuwied 1824)

BRAZIL, Rio de Janeiro, no date indication, Enrico Garue, 2 specimens: CR0618-0619. Formerly 237.500-237.500bis.

*Bothrops moojeni** Hoge 1966

SOUTH AMERICA, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0617. Formerly 237.499.

Genus *Cerastes* Laurenti 1768

Cerastes cerastes (Linnaeus 1758)

EGYPT, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0611. Formerly 233.493.

Genus *Crotalus* Linnaeus 1758

Crotalus durissus Linnaeus 1758

SOUTH AMERICA, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0621. Formerly 239.502.

Genus *Echis* Merrem 1820

Echis pyramidum (Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire 1827)

AFRICA, no date indication, 2 specimens: CR0612-0613. Formerly 234.495.

EGYPT, 1873, Paolo Panceri, 1 specimen: CR0614. Formerly 234.496.

Genus *Hypnale* Fitzinger 1843

Hypnale hypnale (Merrem 1820)

CEYLON, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0616. Formerly 236.498.

Genus *Trimeresurus* Lacépède 1804

Trimeresurus albolabris Gray 1842

MYANMAR, Bhamo, no date indication, Leonardo Fea, acquired 1893, 1 specimen: CR0620. Formerly 238.501.

Genus *Vipera* Garsault 1764

Vipera ammodytes (Linnaeus 1758)

CROATIA, Dalmatia, no date indication, 2 specimens: CR0610, CR0623. Formerly 232.491-232.492.

Vipera aspis (Linnaeus 1758)

EUROPE, no date indication, 10 specimens: CR1371 (taxidermy), CR0598-0605, CR0599bis. Formerly 231.478, 231.480-231.484. Specimen CR0600 is a female bearing embryos.

ITALY, Domodossola, no date indication, donated by Belli in 1874, 2 specimens: CR0608-0609. Formerly 231.490.

ITALY, Pavia, 1865, 1 specimen: CR0861. Formerly 231.486.

ITALY, Pavia, 1879, 1 specimen: CR0606. Formerly 231.487.

ITALY, Valsesia, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0607. Formerly 231.489.

Vipera berus (Linnaeus 1758)

EUROPE, no date indication, 1 specimen: CR0593. Formerly 230.475.

ITALY, Ariano Ferrarese, no date indication, acquired by Mussi in 1882, 2 specimens: CR0594, CR0596. Formerly 230.476-230.477. Specimens belonging to the now extinct lowland populations (cf. Gentili *et al.*, 2006).

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Fig. 1 – Selected specimens from the snake collection of the Natural History Museum of Pavia, Italy. From left to right: CR0363 *Natrix helvetica*; CR0549 *Psammophis sibilans* (likely donated by Giuseppe Acerbi); CR0313 *Cubatyphlops* cf. *epactius*; CR0457 *Erythrolamprus zweifeli*; CR0439 *Dendrelaphis pictus*. / Selezione di esemplari dalla collezione di serpenti del Museo di Storia Naturale di Pavia, Italia. Da sinistra: CR0363 *Natrix helvetica*; CR0549 *Psammophis sibilans* (probabilmente donato da Giuseppe Acerbi); CR0313 *Cubatyphlops* cf. *epactius*; CR0457 *Erythrolamprus zweifeli*; CR0439 *Dendrelaphis pictus*.



Fig. 2 – Example of regular label based on the card index compiled at the beginning of the 20th century: *Vipera ammodytes*. The label shows catalog number (232.491), locality (“Dalmazia”, i.e. Croatia), and Italian common name (“vipera dal corno”, i.e. horned viper). / Esempio di cartellino regolare basato sull’indice dei cartellini compilati all’inizio del XX secolo: *Vipera ammodytes*. Il contrassegno mostra numero di catalogo (232.491), località (“Dalmazia”, odierna Croazia), e nome comune italiano (“vipera dal corno”).



Fig. 3 – Example of historical label based on De Filippi (1840): *Psammophis moniliger* (now reassigned to CR0548 *Psammophis schokari*). / Esempio di cartellino storico basato su De Filippi (1840): *Psammophis moniliger* (ora riassegnato a CR0548 *Psammophis schokari*).



Fig. 4 – Specimen CR0594 *Vipera berus* belonging to the now extinct lowland populations of the Po plain (see locality reported as Ariano Ferrarese on the bottom right corner of the label). / Esemplare CR0594 *Vipera berus* appartenente alla ormai estinta popolazione della Pianura Padana (vedi località Ariano Ferrarese riportata in basso a destra sul cartellino identificativo).