
PLATE 23, FIGS. 2 AND 3.

DIEMENIA MICROLEPIDOTA. (McCoy).

SMALL-SCALED BROWN SNAKE.

DESCRIPTION.—General appearance of *D. superciliosa* and with a similarly small rostral plate; but the vertex plate is nearly pentagonal, from the broad front being almost destitute of angle, forming the greatest width of the plate, which is three-fourths of its total length, the sides converging backwards to the narrow posterior end; posterior frontals proportionally much more elongate, more than twice the length of the anterior frontals, and the occipital plates much narrower behind. The scales are also much smaller and more numerous, being 30 or 36

across the neck, 23 across the middle, and 17 over base of tail. The ventral scales are also more numerous, being from 232 to 237, the anal one being undivided, while the subcaudals are only 61 to 66. *Color*: dark-brown above, yellowish-grey below, the ventral scales edged and blotched with dark-grey; one specimen with the head sooty-black gradually passing into blackish-brown on the body and tail. The general size is larger than the Common Brown Snake.

This large well-marked species is only found in the warmer northern parts of the colony. It is very easily distinguished from the Common Brown Snake (*D. superciliosa*) by the greater number of rows of scales across the back, and their obviously much smaller size and greater number, particularly across the neck. The two type specimens in the Museum have the following dimensions and numbers of scales:—

Specimens.	Scales of Back.		Plates.		Length.	
	Across Middle.	Over Base of Tail.	Abdomen.	Tail.	Total.	Tail.
Pale-brown sp.	23	17	237	66·66	ft. ins. 4 9	ins. 7½
Large blackish-brown sp.	23	17	232	61·61	6 1	10

Locality, junction of Murray and Darling.

EXPLANATION OF FIGURES.

PLATE 23.—Fig. 2, under side of head and neck, natural size, of large dark specimen. Fig. 2a, upper side of head of same specimen, showing the long posterior frontals, the broad-fronted, nearly pentagonal vertex plate, and the narrow occipital plates converging to the wedge-shaped posterior end. Fig. 3, head of smaller specimen, natural size, showing also the long posterior frontals, broad-fronted pentagonal vertex plate, and wedge-shaped posterior narrowing of the occipitals; as well as the smaller and more numerous scales when compared with fig. 1c, showing head, of nearly the same size, of *D. superciliosa*. Fig. 3a, under side of base of tail of same specimen, natural size, showing the undivided anal plate.

