
PLATE 23, FIG. 4.

DIEMENIA ASPIDORHYNCHA (McCoy).

THE SHIELD-FRONTED BROWN SNAKE.

DESCRIPTION.—General appearance of *D. superciliosa*, but the head narrower, and with the front of the muzzle truncated instead of being rounded; and with a very much larger rostral plate extending backwards over the top of the head more than

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twice as far relatively as the rostral shield of *D. superciliosa* or *D. microlepidota*, equalling in backward extension the anterior and posterior frontals together. The posterior frontals are but little longer than the anterior ones, contrasting in this respect strongly with *D. microlepidota*. The vertex plate has the pentagonal form, broad front, and backward-converging sides of *D. microlepidota*, but is shorter and more obtuse-angled behind, contrasting with the angular front and parallel sides of the hexagonal, vertex plate of *D. superciliosa*. The occipital plates agree with *D. superciliosa* in being shorter, broader, and widely rounded behind, contrasting in this respect with *D. microlepidota*. *Color*: a dark, rich, warm sepia-brown above, dark-greyish below, with lighter edges to scales; plated part of head very dark-brown or brownish-black. *Scales*: moderate, 24 or 20 across neck, 17 across middle of back, 15 over base of tail; abdominal scales, 219, anal scale divided; sub-caudals, 55 on each side. *Teeth*: 16 in each palatine row; 7 on one side and 4 on the other behind the fangs. The anterior grooved ocular plate often appearing (erroneously) divided into two. Length: total, 4 feet 8 inches; tail, 8 inches.

In the enormous size of the rostral shield, its great backward extension over the crown, and in the size and shape of the frontals and vertex plate, this species agrees with the *Pseudonaja nuchalis* of Günther, but it is not banded, and presents no generic difference from the other two Brown Snakes above described, and certainly belongs to the genus *Diemenia*.

EXPLANATION OF FIGURES.

PLATE 23.—Fig. 4, head, natural size, viewed from above. Fig. 4a, side view of same specimen.

FREDERICK MCCOY.