

stimuli and a negative reaction to strong light, factors which may, in part, determine the nocturnal and hiding habits of this species. Unfortunately I was not favorably situated at the time for an extensive study of the habits and behavior of the animal, and it was, therefore, the next day preserved as a specimen.

On account of the rarity of this species in the northern part of its geographic range it seems that a brief description of this specimen is not amiss. The general color of the back can best be described as dark bluish olive-brown; the ventral parts, labials and neck-band (two scales wide) are salmon pink, being slightly darker postero-ventrally and slightly more yellowish on the supralabials and neck-band; a series of about 40 small black spots are scattered irregularly in a single midventral line from the 41st to the 144th ventral plates, being more numerous between the 86th and 144th ventral plates. The total length is 335 mm.; tail, 80 mm. The scutellation is as follows: dorsal scale rows, 15; ventrals, 156; subcaudals, 53; supralabials, 8-8; infralabials, 8-7; oculars, 2-2; temporals, 1-1.

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#### SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS MINUS SCIENCE

IN recent years the question has much occupied the public mind whether fraternities in schools and colleges are desirable or not. Those who favor the negative, often point to the low scholarship of the members of fraternities. The fraternities have reacted by strenuous efforts to raise the scholarship among their members. One of the national organizations recently offered a loving cup to that chapter in a group of universities of the Middle West which would make during the year the highest scholarship record. The national officers asked two members of the faculty of the University of Missouri to select the chapter. That ought to be easy. But it was found impossible. To make such an award, it is not sufficient to know that each chapter got so many A's, B's etc.; or so many 95's, 90's, etc., whatever the symbols may be in each institution. It is absolutely necessary

to know the frequencies of these grades in the whole student body of the institution. But none of these institutions, except one, could furnish these data, although, without the frequencies being known, their grades are practically meaningless. Here, then, we have institutions which are generally regarded as the representatives of science. But to apply science to the grades, of which they record year after year thousands, and without which they appear to be unable to get along, that does not seem to have occurred to the administrations of most of them. Their alumni look with amazement upon their *alma maters* which can not furnish the data for the solution of so simple and so proper a problem as that of awarding a loving cup to a group of students who have distinguished themselves by their scholarship.

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#### THE LANGUAGE OF THE BRAZILIAN PEOPLE

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Regarding the review of the work entitled "Fosseis Devonianos Do Paraná," published in the March 13 issue of SCIENCE by Dr. Chas. K. Swartz, Baltimore, Md., in the last paragraph where it mentions the work done by Dr. John M. Clarke, for the Department of Agriculture, Commerce and Industry (Geological and Mineralogical), I find a mistake in his stating that the work is published in the English and Spanish languages in parallel columns. Mr. Swartz should have said that it is published in Portuguese and English, the former being the universal language of the Brazilian people.

E. BRAGA

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#### QUOTATIONS

##### PROFESSORS IN COUNCIL

IN the circular letter that was sent out in the spring of 1913, looking to the formation of a national association of university professors, the motive actuating the signers was indicated in the statement that, besides his interest in his specialty, the university professor is "concerned, as a member of the legis-