(1) The Big Stone Gap shale is a northward extension of the Chattanooga shale of the type area.

(2) The Big Stone Gap shale shows the same tripartite division as the Chattanooga shale of the type area, except that all three units are considerably thicker.

(3) In passing from Lafollette to Big Stone Gap the middle gray shale member thickens up, replacing the uppermost part of the underlying black shale member.

(4) The contact between the lower black shale and the gray shale is not a stratigraphic but an environmental break since the uppermost part of the lower black shale in the south interfingers with the gray shale which replaces it to the north. Thus both the gray shale and the replaced black shale are of the same age, differing only in the conditions of their deposition.

(5) The lower black shale thickens by underlap in passing to the north, so that the lower black shale at Chattanooga is only the uppermost part of the lower black shale member. As stated above, this uppermost part is of the same age as the middle gray shale member in southwestern Virginia.

(6) In Tennessee an unconformity separates the upper black shale from the underlying gray shale member. This unconformity has not been demonstrated in southwestern Virginia.

The completed study will appear in a later paper.

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NOTES ON HELODERMA SUSPECTUM AND IGUANA TUBERCULATA

ON April 2, 1923, the writer received a poisonous lizard, *Heloderma suspectum,* from Wheelock, Robertson County, Texas. This village lies in the southeast part of the county on no highway and about twelve miles from the nearest railroad. This animal had been killed by a farmhand as it was crawling about on his land, and was brought by a student to the department of biology of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas. The finding of this reptile in Robertson County so far from its native home is indeed interesting. Ditmars,[1] Gadow,[2] Hegner,[3] Hornaday[4] and Pratt,[5] limit the distribution of these animals to Arizona, New Mexico and northern Mexico. Only one other occurrence of the Gila Monster in Texas is recorded in the literature available to the writer. Cope[6] lists a specimen taken at Fort McDowell, Texas. This single find was referred to by Strecker[7] who comments somewhat skeptically on the report and states that he made careful search in favorable localities for these reptiles, but failed to find them in Texas. Any attempt to explain how this lizard found its way to Wheelock, some four or five hundred miles from its native haunts, would be mere guesswork.

The writer has lately received from Mr. L. T. Hunter, county agent, Childress County, Texas, another most interesting find—the common Iguana, *Iguana tuberculata.* This reptile was killed on a roadside near Childress and was sent to the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas on December 20, 1926. Childress County lies close to the eastern border of the Panhandle of Texas, touching the southwest corner of Oklahoma. This find is even more remarkable than the former, since the iguana was much farther from its native home—tropical America. The specimen measures three feet, nine and one half inches in length and apparently is only partly grown. Gadow states that *Iguana tuberculata* attains a length of five or six feet. Ditmars, Gadow, Hegner and Hornaday give the distribution as Central and South America and the West Indies, where it lives in trees. How such a reptile could find its way from its tropical and arboreal habitat in the jungles to the almost treeless plains of Childress, Texas, is an interesting speculation.

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[1] Ditmars, R. L., "Reptiles of the World," 1922.

[2] Gadow, H., "Amphibia and Reptilia," Cambridge Natural History, Volume 8.

[3] Hegner, R. W., "College Zoology," revised edition, 1926.

[4] Hornaday, W. T., "The American Natural History," 1904.

[5] Pratt, H. S., "Manual of the Vertebrates of the United States," 1923.

[6] Cope, E. D., "The Crocodilians, Lizards and Snakes of North America," Report U. S. National Museum, 1898.

[7] Strecker, J. K., "Reptiles and Amphibians of Texas," 1915.

A PROTEST AGAINST CRYPTIC TITLES AND INDIRECT LABELING OF FIGURES

IT is the usual thing to lodge complaints when established conventions are violated; but the writer wishes to point out that there are at least two conventions relating to form in scientific articles that could be violated with profit. This note sets forth a complaint against convention.

Many authors are prone to introduce their works to the scientific world in more or less uncertain terms. They handicap them with titles that are often cryptic in the extreme. For example, what does "A New Insect from Utopia" mean? Any one who has had