

## ON THE OCCURRENCE IN TASMANIA OF

*HYDRUS PLATURUS*, Linn. (1)

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Tasmania is usually credited with three terrestrial and one aquatic snake. The latter species—*P. laticaudatus*—has only been noted on rare occasions. It is interesting, therefore, to record that a second aquatic species has been found on the Tasmanian Coast. A specimen recently forwarded to the Museum from Scamander, on the East Coast, proves to be a typical example of the Spotted-tailed Sea Snake (*Hydrus platurus*). This is the first record of this species for Tasmania, and it may be of interest to quote certain particulars regarding its discovery.

Mr. J. Stanley Hodgson, who kindly forwarded the specimen to the Museum, has (5/3/1919) given me the following information:—"My daughter and self found the "snake at Shelly Point, about two miles north of Scamander. He was basking in the sun, laid on a heap of "seaweed. At first I took him for an eel, and killed him "with the intention of eating him, but on picking him up "I soon found that there was nothing of the eel about "him, and, as nobody seemed to know exactly what he "was, I sent him to you."

The range of this snake is usually given as the Tropical and Sub-Tropical Pacific, and I know of no previous record of its occurrence in Tasmanian seas. The present record should, therefore, be of interest.

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(1) Ref.—Boulanger; Cat. Snakes, Brit. Mus. (1896), Vol. III., p. 26.