

with some of the largest muggers shot in India and what the record length is.

BIKANER.

February 10, 1934.

THE SECRETARY TO THE

HEIR-APPARENT OF BIKANER.

[In the second edition of the Fauna British India (Reptilia) the Muzzer (*C. palustris*) is said to attain a total length of 4 metres (approximately 13 ft. 2 in.). The Estuary Crocodile (*C. porosus*) is said to attain a length of 33 ft. but individuals exceeding 20 ft. are rare. We should be glad to receive from readers of the *Journal*, measurements of large muzzer which they may have occasion to take.—Eds.]

XVIII.—NOTE ON THE LOGGERHEAD TURTLE [*CARETTA C. OLIVACEA* (ESCHSCHOLTZ)] DEPOSITING ITS EGGS.

(With a plate).

On Saturday, 3rd March, at about 4 p.m. on Malad-Merve beach, I was idly watching the sea when a curious upheaval, which subsequently resolved itself into something which looked like the Loch Ness monster, showed up near the edge of the water, and proceeded to steadily move towards the shore. I walked down to have a look and saw a large turtle emerge. The turtle crawled laboriously from the edge of the sea up to about 6 ft. above the high water mark at the foot of the sand dunes. Her progress was slow and she frequently stopped and held her head in the air swallowing vigorously. On arrival at the foot of the sand dunes, she immediately set to work to dig a hole with powerful alternate strokes from her hind flippers, holding herself rigidly in position by her fore flippers. She gradually deepened the hole until she had got quite a respectable excavation about a foot wide and 18 or 19 inches deep. Towards the last, it was curious to see the tremendous efforts she made to get her back flippers down to the maximum extent possible into the hole in order to dig it as deep as possible.

The two photographs show her clearly

- (a) at the point where she is flipping out the sand with her body in a horizontal position,
- (b) straining to get her back flippers down into the hole to the maximum extent.

By this time, quite a large crowd of villagers and others had gathered around her. She took not the slightest notice of anybody, but continued to dig. She then settled down flat on the top of the hole. One of the villagers started digging a deeper hole behind the egg-chamber and tunnelled through to it. As her eggs dropped, they rolled through the tunnel and he removed them. In all she laid 122 eggs about the size of ping-pong balls, with a tough skin of a whitish-blue hue.

The whole process of laying took about 12 minutes. The villager then quickly covered up his hole so as not to disturb her.

and she, oblivious of the fact that all her eggs had gone, proceeded to rotate round and round, smoothing the sand, as she thought, over her eggs.

When the hole was quite filled up, she started off back to the sea with the same laborious slow process, with frequent pauses and gulping for breath.

As soon as she entered the water, her speed increased, and it was as much as one could do to keep pace with her wading quite fast. She went straight out through quite heavy surf until she was no longer visible.

The whole proceeding took about two hours from when she emerged from the sea to when she returned to it.

FORBES STREET

BOMBAY.

March 15, 1934.

J. B. GREAVES.

XIX.—THE LARVA OF THE LOBSTER MOTH
(*STAUROPUS DENTILINEA* HAMPSON).

(With a plate).

Of all known larvae, surely that of *Stauropus* or the Lobster Moth is the most bizarre. The moth is more commonly come across than the larva but neither are common; the latter from its cryptic colouring and stance is most difficult to see even to the trained eye and because few collectors have had the good fortune to come across it, the following short note will be of interest.

Stauropus fagi Linn., the genotype is found throughout Europe and England and was considered a prize even in my young days. Five species have been described from within Indian limits of which three are confined to the Himalayas, one to the Nilgiris and a fifth to a much wider area extending from Assam to Burma, Ceylon and Java. The latter probably includes several distinct races. The larvae of the genotype, of *Stauropus alternus* and *sikkimensis* alone are known, that of *dentilinea* hitherto being unknown.

The latter closely resembles that of the genotype and of *S. alternus* in its colouring, there is however only a single subdorsal oblique stripe which is of pure dazzling white and confined to the 6th somite. Laterally two pale purplish white arches are found, one extending from the 4th to the 7th somite and the other confined to the 9th and 10th somites. The ground colouring is of a rich mahogany tint with diffuse brighter ferruginous patches on the sides. There is also a dark brownish streak on each side of the head. Paired dorsal processes are found on the 4th to the 9th somites instead of on only the 6th to 8th, and there are also two unpaired processes on the terminal somite. The sides of the latter are expanded broadly and the preceding somite has three fleshy spines on each side. The legs show the same extraordinary development characteristic of the genotype (Fig. e) and are minutely spined throughout. Hampson states that the anal prolegs are