

with their poison. Last September I got the one before you, along with two others, and we will now describe the reptile on hand, and compare it with that of Baird and Girard.

CANADIAN SPECIMEN.

1 Twenty-five rows of dorsal scales.

2 First and second lateral rows smooth.

3 Vertical plates subpentagonal, tapering posteriorly.

4 Lateral rows of blotches seem to merge making sometimes on y one larger, one smaller or occasionally only one spot.

5 Ground color, yellowish brown, with three lateral series of blotches, the upper one, small and obscure, and the inferiors, frequently coalescing, so as to make on y one series of lateral spots, all chestnut brown.

6 Two elongated brown blotches extending from the supe cilliaris, backwards.

7 A band of Chestnut-brown from posterior frontal plates, passes over the eyes, to the neck, and under it, a yellow stripe extends from the nostril to the angle of the mouth.

BAIRD & GIRARD.

1 Twenty-three rows of dorsals.

2 First and second lateral rows smooth.

3 Precisely the same as mine in every particular.

4 Lateral rows of blotches proportionally very small.

5 Ground color yellowish-brown with three lateral series of deep chestnut blotches.

6 Precisely as in view, and I give B & G's words.

7 This is B & G copied directly down and is most perfectly correct as regards the specimen now before you all.

I find it perfectly true, that they are smooth to the vent. After that I think you will find only one external scale, smooth on the tail; at least such is in my notes. If you place the bottle on its side, and get the reflection of the light on the two rows of scales, next the abdominal scutæ, you will see how smooth they are, and no keel running down their center. You can see this at once, if you get the side raised out of the alcohol in the bottle, as the bottle lies horizontally. Now if any of you take the extra trouble of comparing this *Candisona Edwardsii* with the description of *C. Tergemina*, I think you will find ample consanguinity, and a close resemblance so thoroughly marked as to emphatically consider them one species, and mere varieties, and very trivial ones at that. Mr. Jordan never mentions it at all, and it is not reported as a northern form. Baird and Girard give us three specimens and they are all snakelets, and all southern, not one of them even half adult. There is one fault that I find with the descriptions of these eminent herpetologists, as regards the *Crotalus* family, namely, they never on any occasion give a list of the number of the rattles on each specimen nor state whether by mishap, they may not have been broken off. It is seldom indeed that we see a series of rattlesnakes without many of the specimens being thus mutilated.

I will now give you what is termed the form, of these four specimens and conclude with a few comparisons and

And thus the descriptions agree. But the one great point of difference, between *Crotalophorus Tergeminus* and *C. Edwardsii*, is the color of the abdomen, and this you cannot help seeing, if you look at all. The description of B & G is "the belly of a light straw color, dotted and sprinkled irregularly with brown. This holds with my specimen in every particular except the sprinkling with brown and yet there is now and then an isolated little dot. If you examine the two external rows of the dorsals, you will