

rounded in front. Rostral plate large, oblong and erect, which makes it bend over the snout. Mouth semi-lunar under the muzzle. Eyes, under scales, obscure or wanting. Body cylindrical, suddenly contracted or obliquely convex at tip. Any one can see all these characteristics in the little lizard before you. *Rena Dulcis* belongs to the *Leptoglossæ*, that is, *lacertidæ* with a flat long tongue, cleft, more or less, at the tip. The ears, if any, are hidden below the skin. They are allied to the *Sepsidæ*.

The color of the back in this lizard is umber brown, and along the sides runs a well defined line of demarkation, and the under half of the body or belly is a clear, silvery, very light brown. The scales on every part of the body are smooth. Head, a very deep umber. Eyes, leaden, very obscure, beneath the skin. Along the abdominal line, at the breadth of a scale, there is an obscure line, upwards, of a brighter shade, extending from the angle of the mouth to the vent, and thence to near the end of the tail, where it is lost. The number of rows of scales encircling the body is thirteen in one specimen, and fifteen in a second, and encircling the tail twelve and thirteen, respectively. The anal scale is small, sub-hexagonal, and a shade darker than those surrounding it. Anus, semi lunar, obscure. The mouth is semi-lunar, and the lower jaw fits, as if into a groove, in the upper. The line of demarkation runs along the most external edge of upper jaw, and the recurved, under surface of the lip is white; likewise the throat is brighter than the rest of the abdomen. The specimens described are alcoholic. The eyes are leaden, very indistinct, and, as already stated, covered by a scale or skin, and of little use for vision. The tail is very obtuse, bent downwards to a plane with the abdomen at its termination, and the last

scale is prolonged and ends in a small, round sharp spine. This seems designed for assisting in progression. The body is glabrous, and the animal can move with equal facility either backwards or forwards. The body gradually enlarges from the head to the tail, where it is thickest immediately before the end.

The head is depressed towards the snout, which terminates in a blunt wedge, and the rostrals, for there seem to be two, are doubled under it and pass backwards, thus absolutely leaving no edge of a scale to the chance of being torn from its place as the typhloid burrows along searching for its food. The scales of the neck are small, and from the head gradually increase in size till over the vent, when they very slightly decrease till they end in the terminal spine, which is about the fiftieth of an inch long. Jaws, toothed. The following are the measurements in inches of one specimen:

Total Length.....	8 $\frac{1}{8}$
Of Head.....	$\frac{1}{8}$
Circumference of Body.....	1 $\frac{7}{8}$
Length of Terminal Spine.....	$\frac{5}{16}$
Breadth of Jaw.....	$\frac{3}{8}$
Snout to Mouth.....	1 $\frac{1}{8}$
Extent of Gape.....	$\frac{1}{8}$
Breadth of Head.....	$\frac{3}{8}$
Circumference of Tail.....	$\frac{1}{2}$
Length of Eye, perhaps.....	$\frac{1}{16}$

But the last measurement could only be approached on account of its extreme indistinctness.

The lower jaw is very solid at the symphysis, and the nasal bones are capable of great resistance in boring its way. Its food evidently is composed of small mollusks and worms, and also decaying matter, whether vegetable or animal, and the nares seem useful in discovering its aliment.

It is a most harmless and inoffensive little being, incapable of the smallest injury to man, and unobtrusive in