The name-bearing type of *Oligodon quadrilineatus* (Jan & Sordelli, 1865) (Squamata: Colubridae)

PATRICK DAVID², GERNOT VOGEL², JOHAN VAN ROOIJEN¹ & LAURE PIERRE⁴

¹Reptiles & Amphibiens, UMR 7205 OSEB, Département Systématique et Évolution, CP 30, Muséum National d’Histoire Naturelle, 57 rue Cuvier, 75231 Paris Cedex 05, France. E-mail: pdavid@mnhn.fr
²Society for Southeast Asian Herpetology, Im Sand 3, D-69115 Heidelberg, Germany. E-mail: Gernot.Vogel@t-online.de
³Tulpentuin 313, 2272 EH Voorburg, The Netherlands. E-mail: j1.van.rooijen@hetnet.nl
⁴Direction des Collections, UGC Vertébrés, CP 30, Muséum National d’Histoire Naturelle, 57 rue Cuvier, 75231 Paris Cedex 05, France. E-mail: lpierre@mnhn.fr

David et al. (2008) revised the nomenclature and systematics of the Asian colubrid snakes recognized in the literature as the “*Oligodon taeniatus*-group”. In order to fix the status of *Simotes quadrilineatus* Jan & Sordelli, 1865, David et al. (2008) designated a neotype. Although Jan & Sordelli (1865: Plate IV: Fig. 3) depicted only one specimen, David et al. (2008) pointed out that four specimens were considered syntypes of *S. quadrilineatus* in the catalogues of the Muséum national d’Histoire naturelle, Paris (MNHN), all collected by F. Bocourt in Siam between December 1861 and July 1862 (Milne-Edwards 1866; Bocourt 1866). Thanks to the precision of Jan & Sordelli’s drawing of the ventral pattern, in which ventral blotches are clearly visible, it appeared that none of these four specimens was the holotype depicted on Plate 4 of Jan & Sordelli (1865). As a consequence, David et al. (2008) designated as neotype MNHN 1991.1819, an adult female from “Bangkok”, Thailand, belonging to the series collected by F. Bocourt.

Unfortunately, a recent examination of MNHN specimens of *Oligodon taeniatus* proved that the previous neotype designation was unjustified, because the collection contains two other specimens previously also identified as “types” of *S. quadrilineatus*, MNHN 0598(1), a male, and MNHN 0598(2), a female, both from “Bang-kok (Siam)”. These specimens were included in the material examined by David et al. (2008) but their status was overlooked because they were listed on another sheet of the Catalogue. Nevertheless, MNHN 0598(1) has a pattern of ventral blotches identical in position and number with those of the specimen depicted by Jan & Sordelli (1865: pl. 4, fig. 3d). This specimen should stand as the holotype of *Simotes quadrilineatus*. In agreement with Art. 75.8 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (Anonymous 1999) about the rediscovery of a former name-bearing type, MNHN 1991.1819 looses its status of neotype and has no longer any special status.

The holotype of *Simotes quadrilineatus* Jan & Sordelli, 1865 is described as follows (abbreviations as in David et al. 2008): MNHN 0598, adult male, from “Bang-kok (Siam)”, now Bangkok, Thailand. Collected by Firmin Bocourt.

**Morphology.** Body elongated but robust; head barely distinct from neck; snout projecting beyond lower jaw, long, rounded, 29.8 % of HL, 1.7 times as long as diameter of eye; pupil black and round; tail thick at its base and tapering. SVL 296 mm, TaL 59 mm; ratio TaL/TL 0.173.

**Dentition.** 16 maxillary teeth: 13 subequal teeth + 3 strongly enlarged, blade-like posterior teeth.

**Body scalation.** DSR: 19–19–15 rows, scales all smooth. VEN: 149 (+ 1 precentral; counted following Dowling 1951); SC 38, paired; anal entire.

**Head scalation.** Rostral distinctly curved onto the upper snout surface, well visible from above, separating internasals by half their length; nasals subrectangular, vertically divided; prefrontals subrectangular, distinctly wider than long; frontal hexagonal, ogive-like, 1.3 times longer than wide; a large supraocular on each side, distinctly longer than wide, as wide as prefrontals; two large, subtriangular parietals, much longer than frontal, in broad contact; 1 / 1 small subrectangular loreal, about 1.4 times longer than high, in contact with nasal; 8 / 8 SL, 1st SL small, 2nd and 3rd in contact with loreal, 4th and 5th entering orbit, 6th and 7th largest; 1 / 1 high preocular; no presubocular; 2 / 2 postoculars; temporals 1+1 /1+2; 9 / 9 infralabials, first pair in contact, 1+4 th IL in contact with anterior chin shields.

**Colouration.** Upper body surface greyish-brown, scales narrowly edged with dark brown; narrow greyish-yellow vertebral stripe extends from nuchal marking to base of tail, edged on each of its sides with wider brown paravertebral stripe; an irregular, dark brown lateral stripe on each side on 3rd–4th DSR extending from neck to vent. Tail resembles upper body surface; dark brown lateral stripe on each side on edges of subcaudals.