



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

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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 loses 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 preventral; 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, 1st–4th 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.