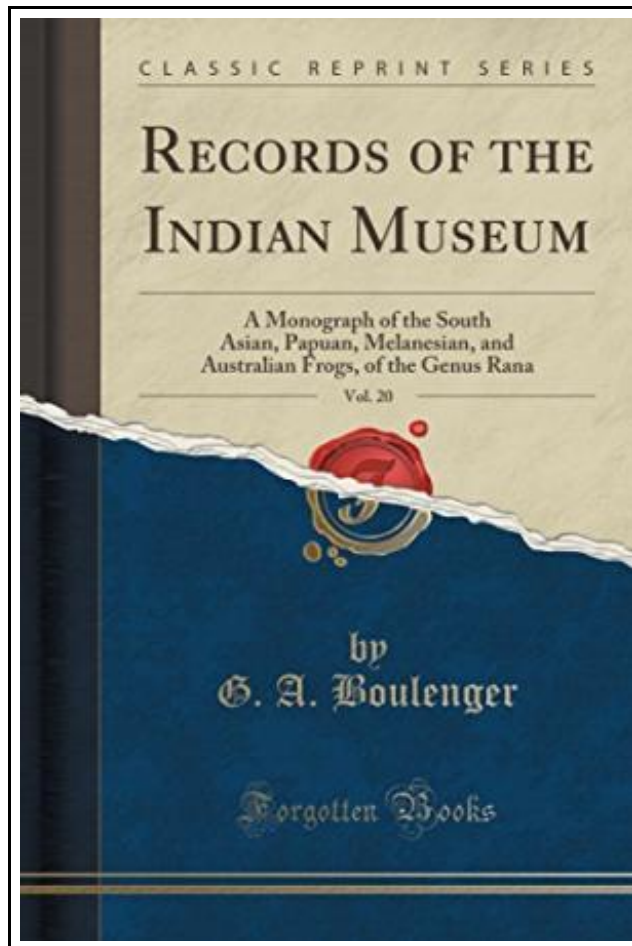


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Forgotten Books, United States, 2016. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Excerpt from *Records of the Indian Museum, Vol. 20: A Monograph of the South Asian, Papuan, Melanesian, and Australian Frogs, of the Genus Rana* The time has come to rid ourselves of the empirical methods which have necessarily prevailed so long in zootaxy, and to endeavour to group species, as far as possible, according to their probable phylogenetic relationships, and for this purpose it is desirable to fix one's ideas by establishing a theoretical prototype from which phyletic lines may be drawn up. This I have recently attempted to do in a paper of which an abstract is here given. The Firmisternia are certainly derived from the Arcifera, as shown by their ontogeny, and among the latter the Cystignathidae agree in so many points with the Ranidae that we may legitimately assume a direct genetic relationship between them. Dealing first with external characters, I consider the complete separation of the outer metatarsals by web as the most primitive character, which is not correlated with the degree of development of the web between the toes. In all the series of allied forms in which the phyletic tendencies are clearly indicated, we can follow the gradual reduction of the membrane; the species with fully webbed toes are, therefore, the least specialized, so far as this character is concerned. The dilatation of the tips of the digits is a specialization culminating in the large scausorial discs of the species adapted to an arboreal life. The primitive frog must have had a well-developed tympanum covered by a very thin skin. The reduction of the organ, which may be completely concealed under the thick skin, leads to its suppression (*R. pleskei*)....



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