rows of broad dorsal scales within the broad light dorsal stripe, there is a double row of broad scales beneath the belly. In addition to the spectacle these characters afford a striking distinction from the skink *Mabuya,* to which *Gymnophthalmus* bears a superficial resemblance. The colouration is in shades of bronze like an old penny. On top of the head, down the back as a broad stripe and onto the tail is light bronze; the sides of the head, trunk and tail are dark bronze. There are fine speckles on the dorsal side of the tail. The underside is whitish.

I found these lizards in fairly dry litter in contrast to the damp situations in which *Scolecosaurus* was found. These nimble lizards are not easy to catch as they wriggle away through the litter.

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Cyclorotating Eyes in the Tadpole of Phyllomedusa burmeisteri

Some snakes, fishes and turtles have eyes which can rotate about an axis passing through the centres of the two eyeballs[1][2]. The best name for this phenomenon seems to be cyclorotation. I had the opportunity of observing it in the tadpoles of the large green frog, *Phyllomedusa burmeisteri* (Boul.) [3] In this animal the observations are easily made, since, although the pupil is round, a "nick" which projects into the iris is readily seen and serves as a marker. This "nick" points vertically downwards, whatever the position of the head, so long as the animal is not upside down.

From photographs of the tadpole with its head pointing both upwards and downwards actual measurement showed that the angle of rotation is at least 125°, greater than the angles previously recorded: 65° for the copperhead snake[1], 120° for a goldfish and 70° for a turtle[2]. When the tadpole turns on its back, the eye is locked in position with the "nick" pointing ventrally.

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(1) Scientific American 190: 1001, 1954.
(2) Scientific American 191: 116, 1955.
(3) Parker, H. W. A list of the frogs and toads of Trinidad. Tropical Agriculture 10: 8, 1933.

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Record of a Beaked Whale from Balandra

On January 5th, 1953, we found the skull and some vertebrae of a beaked whale on the beach at Sena Bay, Balandra. Photographs were taken and sent to the British Museum (Nat. Hist.) for identification. From the pictures the whale was provisionally identified as *Mesoplodon bidens.* As this is a rather rare species we were asked by the curator if we would consider selling the specimen to the museum but we preferred to donate it and sent it to London. There it was identified as *Mesoplodon gervaisi,* an exceedingly rare species which is represented in the British Museum only by our specimen and one other, ours being the first.

The discovery of the Trinidad specimen was reported in the London newspapers at the time. It was then the seventh to be discovered but two other specimens were subsequently found in Jamaica and recorded[1] before