In coloration this specimen more closely resembles the lighter forms of *A. pulchra* from the southern part of California (Museum of Vertebrate Zoology collection). In life it was notably silver and not black or even dark. The dorsal line of dark color is one scale wide while the lateral lines vary from several wide at the head to two for the greater length of the body. Some of the measurements are: length from head to anus 60 mm., width of head 4 mm., width of the body 3.5 mm. taken at approximately 1.5 cm. posterior to the head, length of tail about 24 mm., the end was broken off but saved. The scales are so very tiny that it is extremely difficult to count the scale rows. The scales on the head correspond in number and arrangement to Van Denburgh's description of the genus.

This lizard is no doubt an immature of *A. nigra* but due to scant comparative material it is impossible to be certain. All specimens of both species at hand are more than twice the length of this one. The very light coloration may well be due to age, since only *A. nigra* has been reported from the Monterey peninsula.

M. E. Musgrave

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**BUFO ALVARIUS, A POISONOUS TOAD**

Although I have been intimately acquainted with toads of this species for the past ten or twelve years and have at various times handled them and carried them about in my car, it was not until the evening of September 1, 1928, that I realized what a dangerous amphibian *Bufo alvarius* could really be upon occasion.

Just about sundown of that evening I was looking over a planting in the front of our home when I discovered a large green toad in a standpipe used for irrigation purposes. I lifted the big fellow out and
dropped him over the side. Our little wire haired fox terrier, standing nearby made a dash at the toad, but I spoke to her and she stepped back. Immediately the toad swelled himself up, hissed at the dog and hopped a little way toward her. That was too much, the dog immediately grabbed him and in one shake the toad was dead. I was leaning over the standpipe and my face was perhaps four or five feet from the toad while she was shaking it.

About this time a large police dog that is a visitor at our home ran up and touched his nose to the toad; the little terrier snatched it away. I thought no more of it and started back to the house, the big police dog following. He had gone no more than a hundred feet when his front legs crumpled under him and he pitched forward. However, he gathered himself and then tipped backwards, his legs and body being paralyzed.

Immediately I realized that something was wrong and looking over to where the little terrier had been I saw her lying on the ground with her feet crumpled under her and her face in the dirt. I ran over and picked her up and found that she had fallen on top of the toad as she was carrying it. I felt her heart and found the action slow, and although she gasped and did her best, she could get no air into her lungs. Within two or three minutes from the time she first bit the toad she died. Immediately after death, bloody foam oozed from her mouth and nose.

About that time I became very sick myself, my head was swimming, and there was a lifting feeling in my lung cavity. It affected me rather peculiarly, as I wanted to walk and keep walking. I took a large dose of warm salt water and after disgorging what I had in my stomach I felt better. However, the effects did not wear off for about thirty minutes. The old police dog also revived in about three quarters of an hour.

I do not know whether I got the effects of the poison while leaning over the standpipe or while
working with the little dog, as I pried her mouth open and tried to get salt water down her. I did not detect any odor whatsoever. I am quite sure that I did not get the poison from the toad before the dog attacked it, although I did lift it with my hand, but this I have done on many occasions before without experiencing any trouble. I also handled with no ill effect, a toad of the same species that was later sent to the Bureau of Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.

Recently I have had a communication from Miss May Noble, who lives in Phoenix and who within the past few days has had a similar experience. Her Pekinese dog seized one of these green toads but Miss Noble got it away from the dog before he had hurt it to any great extent. However, the dog soon became paralyzed and Miss Noble called two veterinarians, one of whom seemed to know nothing of the effects of that sort of poisoning, but the other said it was not uncommon in this valley. Miss Noble informs me that she used ammonia with good results and that the dog recovered within an hour after it had gotten the poison. This dog, however, did not puncture the skin of the toad, only picking it up.

Just how the poison acts I do not know. My theory is that it is a gland secretion thrown out by the toad through tiny vents. Whether it forms a gas or an imperceptible spray, it comes in contact with the mucous membranes of the body and seems to do its deadly work then.

M. E. Musgrave

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My own observations gathered from having kept two specimens of _Bufo alvarius_ in captivity prove that they make harmless and interesting pets. I have never seen any secretion of slime from the skin glands, although I have often resorted to forcible feeding
when my toads’ appetites were a little sluggish. Even the process of prying open their jaws and stuffing in angle worms or meat brought about no exudation of poison; therefore it must be only under the severest physical stress of danger or pain that the glands become active. The second individual which Mr. Musgrave sent alive to the Biological Survey is now in my possession. It seems quite satisfied to be kept in a large wooden tub containing an inch or two of water. When touched or even when it hears a noise near its tub, it inflates to a remarkable degree and remains in this condition for some time.

In Dr. Tracy Storer’s book “A Synopsis of the Amphibia of California” (Univ. California Publ. Zool., Vol. 27, 1925), some brief notes are given on the life history of this toad, the largest species occurring north of Mexico, and one of the least known of all our North American amphibians. Its semi-aquatic habits restrict it to places where the water supply is constant. Irrigation ditches in southern Arizona and southeastern California provide ideal breeding places for it, and the young toads are said to develop from the egg stage in a month’s time.

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AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES OBSERVED IN THE PALISADES INTERSTATE PARK, NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY

The writer spent July and August, 1923, in the Boy Scout camp at the Kanohwahke Lakes in the Bear Mountain–Harriman Section of the Palisades Interstate Park, New York, doing nature study work. Some time was available for collecting and a fairly representative list of the herpetological fauna was prepared. With this was incorporated the work done in the summer of 1922 by Mr. Alvah C. Bessie and a