

**IX. NOTES ON THE GILA MONSTER
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(Abstract)

Through the kindness of Doctor Howard A. Kelly of Baltimore, Md., I was enabled to accompany Mr. Ortenburger during the summer of 1923 to the Santa Catalina Mountains about 13 miles north of Tuscon, Arizona, where he was sent by the American Museum of Natural History to study the Gila Monster (*Heloderma suspectum*).

This is the only genus of poisonous lizards in the world, and yet as far as known the United States species has never been known to cause death by its bite altho the results may be very serious. The venom gland is sublingual; there are no true fangs, the venom merely oozing out at the base of the grooved anterolateral teeth of the lower jaw.

Most of the specimens were found at night as we had expected, altho some few were found at all times of the day. They do not seem to be averse to rain as we even found a copulating pair in a hard shower.

Little has been known of their habits, but we were very fortunate in finding in stomachs examined the feet of a lizard *Cnemidophorus gularis*, unidentified ants and small Diptera and bits of grass (*Bouteloua aristidoides*) the last possibly seized along with other food. They also eat the eggs of Gambel's partridge and possibly those of other ground-nesting birds.