Poisonous Ocean Snakes of Our New Possessions

When ships steam through miles of water covered with beautiful but ferocious and deadly serpents.

No snake on land, except the coral, is so poisonous as the snakes of the South Pacific seas. They do not often take to the surface in the night or at the beginning of the morning, but are to be supposed to be lurking in their holes and under the rocks along the shore. The fact is, they are as deep-sea snakes as the rays and sharks, and are very likely to be found off the American coasts from the British Columbia to the Hawaiian islands. The hawaiians call them kahuka, which means "small," and this is a very appropriate name, for no more than a foot in length is usual, though as much as three feet have been seen in their holes in the rocks. The little black serpent is almost as poisonous as the large blue sea serpent, which is the commonest kind in the Pacific. They are usually seen in the water hunting for small fish, and are very likely to occur in the future, as they have been for centuries.

The facts about the poisonous sea snakes of the Pacific are based on the report of a recent expedition to the sea. This expedition was made by Dr. A. H. B. W. of the United States navy, who has been exploring the Pacific for the past five years. He has found that the sea snakes of the Pacific are very poisonous, and that they are very likely to be found in the future, as they have been for centuries. The hawaiians call them kahuka, which means "small," and this is a very appropriate name, for no more than a foot in length is usual, though as much as three feet have been seen in their holes in the rocks. The little black serpent is almost as poisonous as the large blue sea serpent, which is the commonest kind in the Pacific. They are usually seen in the water hunting for small fish, and are very likely to occur in the future, as they have been for centuries.

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