

Hardwicke's Science-Gossip - Volume 1.pdf/78



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FURTHER EXPERIENCES WITH TOADS.

MY observations relate chiefly to the habits of the toad whilst feeding, and may be taken as a second chapter of E. D.'s very interesting paper (p. 12.)

My toads, two in number, had lived for a year or two in a hothouse which was devoted to the growth of pineapples. They were, I think, first placed there purposely by the gardener, who found them very useful in destroying insects. I used frequently to visit the place and amuse myself with feeding the toads with worms, and with watching their habits. The heat of the place, which was considerable, did not seem to inconvenience them in the least, for they were remarkably active, and of a large size; but at the same time they seemed greatly to enjoy the artificial showers when the plants were syringed, and would come out from their hiding-places to be rained upon. They usually remained amongst the pineapple plants, which grew on a bed raised some four feet from the ground, where they sat under the long leaves;

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