

Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

WILSON, LARRY DAVID. 1983. *Tantilla taeniata*.

Tantilla taeniata (Bocourt)

Homalocranium taeniatum Bocourt, 1883:587. Type-locality, "Guatemala." Holotype, Museum National Histoire Naturelle, Paris 1666, adult male, collected by A. Bouvier, date of collection unknown (examined by author).

Homalocranium trivittatum Müller, 1885:678. Type-locality, "Guatemala." Holotype, Naturhistorisches Museum Basel 2119, sex unknown, collector and date of collection unknown (not examined by author).

Homalocranium taeniatum: Günther, 1895:151.

Homalocranium trilineatum: Boulenger, 1896:217 (in error).

Tantilla taeniata: Cope, 1887:83.

Tantilla triseriata Smith and Smith, 1951:97. Type-locality, "Coatlán, Oaxaca" [Mexico]. Holotype, Univ. Illinois Mus. Natur. Hist. 20198, adult female, collected by Thomas MacDougall, 9 October 1949 (examined by author).

Tantilla tritaeniata Smith and Williams, 1966:483. Type-locality, "Bonacca Island [=Isla Guanaja], Bay Islands" [=Departamento Islas de la Bahía, Honduras]. Holotype, British Mus. Natur. Hist. 94.12.28.23, adult female, probably collected by G. F. Gaumer, date of collection unknown (not examined by author).

Tantilla taeniata taeniata: Smith and Smith, 1976:S-B-199 (by inference).

Tantilla taeniata triseriata: Smith and Smith, 1976:S-B-199.

Tantilla taeniata tritaeniata: Smith and Smith, 1976:S-B-199.

• CONTENT. No subspecies are recognized.

• DEFINITION AND DIAGNOSIS. "A species of *Tantilla* with a brown dorsum with a distinct pale middorsal stripe (gold to orangish tan in life) occupying the middorsal scale row and adjacent halves of the paravertebral rows and a pale lateral stripe (cream to gold in life) on adjacent halves of scale rows 3 and 4. The lower half of the paravertebral scale row is cream, the upper half is dark brown. Both the middorsal and lateral stripes are outlined above and below with a dark brown stripe occupying the adjacent half row. The head pattern consists of a pale nuchal band (complete, divided medially, or divided both medially and laterally) on a dark brown background, which crosses the last supralabial. The venter may be either cream or reddish orange. Ventrals and subcaudals range from 143 to 178 and 58 to 67, respectively" (Wilson, 1982). *Tantilla taeniata* may be distinguished from all other congeners by possession of a pale middorsal stripe occupying the middorsal row and adjacent halves of the paravertebral rows, a pale lateral stripe occupying adjacent halves of rows 3 and 4, and a paravertebral scale row divided sharply into dark dorsal and pale ventral halves.

• DESCRIPTIONS. The most recent and comprehensive descriptions of the species are in Wilson and Meyer (1971 and 1982) and Wilson (1982).

• ILLUSTRATIONS. Black-and-white photographs of the head and forebody and the entire dorsum of this species are in Smith and Smith (1951). Smith and Williams (1966) presented pen-and-ink drawings of the dorsal and lateral aspects of the head and forebody. Wilson and Meyer (1971) illustrated dorsal, lateral, and ventral views of the head, and the dorsal pattern.

• DISTRIBUTION. *Tantilla taeniata* occurs at low and moderate elevations (near sea level to 1000 m) of the Caribbean versant from Oaxaca, Mexico to Nicaragua (including the Bay Islands) and is also distributed on the Pacific versant in eastern Oaxaca, Mexico, El Salvador, and Honduras.

• FOSSIL RECORD. None.

• PERTINENT LITERATURE. Papers published on this species to date have been concerned largely with systematics. Wilson and Meyer (1971) revised the group (*taeniata*) to which this species belongs and Wilson (1982) summarized data on external characters,

geographic distribution, and habitat preference. Comments on relationships are in Savitzky and Smith (1971), Wilson and Meyer (1971), and Wilson (1974, 1982).

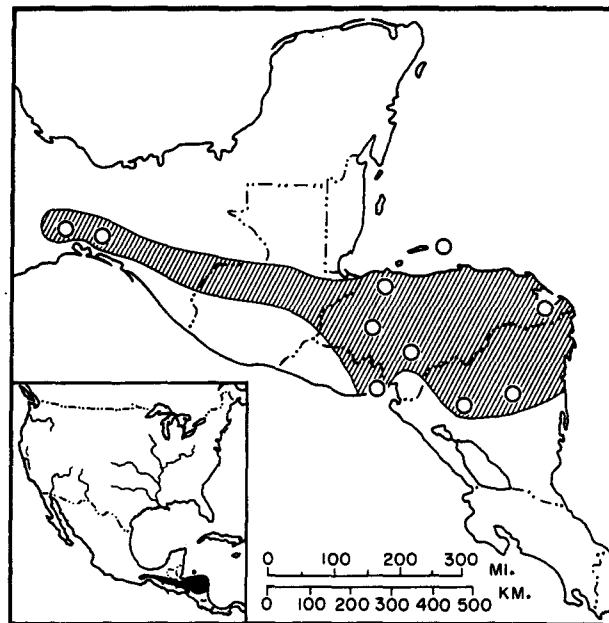
• ETYMOLOGY. The name *taeniata* is derived from the Latin *taenia* meaning "a ribbon or tape" referring to the striped dorsal pattern.

COMMENT

The relationships of this species to *T. briggsi* and *T. jani* remain to be elucidated (Savitzky and Smith, 1971; Wilson, 1974).

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MAP. Distribution of *Tantilla taeniata* in Mexico and Central America. Circles mark known localities, shaded area estimates total range. The type-locality, "Guatemala," is too imprecise to plot.

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