

Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

Villa, Jaime D. 1990. *Leptotyphlops nasalis*.

***Leptotyphlops nasalis* Taylor**

*Leptotyphlops nasalis* Taylor, 1940:535. Type-locality, "Managua, Nicaragua." Holotype, National Museum of Natural History (USNM) 16134, an adult male obtained from "Government of Nicaragua," date of collection unknown (examined by author).

• **Content.** No subspecies have been described.

• **Definition.** *Leptotyphlops nasalis* is a member of the *L. septemstriatus* group (Orejas-Miranda, 1970) measuring 146 mm in total length (body diameter 55 times in total length). The eye is distinct and rather large (more than half the width of the ocular). There are no supraocular or prefrontal scales. The nasal is completely divided, and its superior portion extends over and behind the eye to beyond the rostral. The rostral is elongate, reaching considerably behind the posterior level of the eye, and is in contact with the frontal. The anterior parietal is very large and is broadly in contact with the second labial. The posterior parietal (occipital) is narrower, separated from the second labial by a single scale. Two upper and four lower labials are present. There are 14 scales around the body, 10 around the tail, 253 dorsal scales from rostral to terminal caudal spine, and 21 under the tail. The color is uniform pale brown without a lineate pattern, paler ventrally but without a clear demarcation. The rostral has a small cream spot anteriorly, not reaching the level of the eye. The spine is also cream.

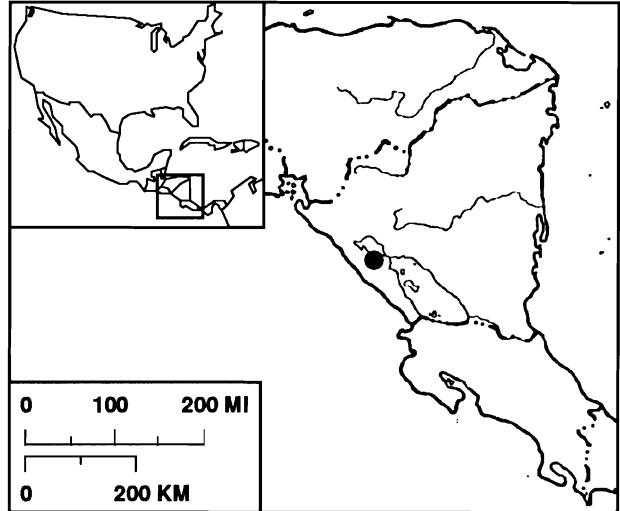
• **Descriptions.** The only description of the species is in Taylor (1940).

• **Illustrations.** Taylor (1940) presented a pen and ink drawing of the dorsal, lateral and ventral aspect of the head and neck of the holotype, here reproduced.

• **Distribution.** This species is known only from the type locality in the Tropical Dry or Very Dry forest formation of Holdridge (1967).

• **Fossil Record.** None.

• **Pertinent Literature.** Dunn and Saxe (1950) considered *L. nasalis* to be a synonym of *L. ater* (= *L. goudotti ater*), a conclusion rejected by Orejas-Miranda (1970), who placed *L. nasalis* in the *L.*



Map. Solid circle represents the type-locality.

*septemstriatus* group and *L. goudotti* in the *albifrons* group. Nothing else has been published about *L. nasalis* beyond its inclusion in familial (Hahn, 1980) or faunal lists for Nicaragua (Villa, 1971, 1983), Middle America (Villa et al., 1988), and the Neotropics (Orejas-Miranda, 1970).

• **Etymology.** From the Greek *nasus*, or nose, an allusion to the unique condition of the upper nasal scale.

Literature Cited

Dunn, Emmett Reid, and L. H. Saxe, Jr. 1950. Results of the Catherwood-Chaplin West Indies Expedition, 1948. Part V. Amphibians and reptiles of San Abdrés and Providencia. Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia 102:141-165.

Hahn, Donald D. 1980. Liste der Rezenten Amphibien und Reptilien. Anomalepididae, Leptotyphlopidae, Typhlopidae. Das Tierreich (101):xi+93 p.

Holdridge, Leslie R. 1967. Life zone ecology, 2nd. ed.. San José, Costa Rica. 206 p.

Orejas-Miranda, Braulio R. 1970. *Leptotyphlops*, pp. 165-173 in Peters, James A., and Braulio R. Orejas-Miranda, Catalogue of the Neotropical Squamata. Part 1, Snakes. U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. (297):1-347.

Taylor, Edward Harrison. 1940. Herpetological miscellany, No. 1. Univ. Kansas Sci. Bull. 26:489-571.

Villa, Jaime. 1970. Lista tentativa de vertebrados inferiores de Nicaragua. Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Nicaragua, Managua. 36 p.

—. 1983. Nicaraguan fishes, amphibians and reptiles: A checklist and bibliography. Universidad Centroamericana, Managua. 53 p.

—, Larry D. Wilson, and Jerry D. Johnson. 1988. Middle American herpetology. A bibliographic checklist. Univ. Missouri Press, Columbia. xxxvi+132 p.

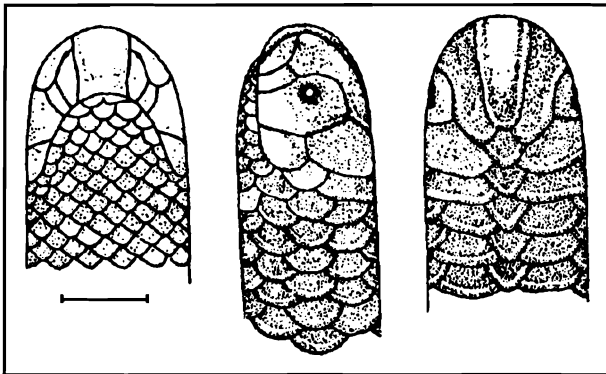


Figure. *Leptotyphlops nasalis*, holotype (from Taylor, 1940). Line represents 1 mm.

Jaime D. Villa, Directorate for Science and Engineering Education, National Science Foundation, Washington D.C. 20550.

Primary editor for this account, Larry David Wilson.

Published 31 January 1990 and Copyright ©1990 by the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles.