

**Catalogue of American Amphidians and Reptiles.**

Crother, Brian I. 1988. *Cricosaura*, *C. typica*.

***Cricosaura* Gundlach and Peters  
Cuban Night Lizard**

*Cricosaura* Gundlach and Peters, in Peters, 1863:262. Type-species, *Cricosaura typica* Gundlach and Peters, 1863, by monotypy. *Cricolepis* Boulenger, 1890: 83. Substitute name (see Comment).

- **Content.** One Recent species, *C. typica*, is recognized.

- **Definition.** A small (38 mm snout-vent length) xantusiid lizard with the following combination of characters: no median scale; pretemporals present; 3 enlarged temporals; 2 rows of supraoculars; nostril pierced in nasal-postnasal suture; postmentals and infralabials distinct; gulars enlarged, rectangular, about same size as anterior pregulars. The dorsal scales are flattened, almost quadrangular, and homogeneous in size, except for 2 or 3 reduced rows on the dorsal midline. The ventrals are in 8 longitudinal rows. The radial and femoral scales are enlarged into small plates. The caudal scales are smooth, with two rows of smaller dorsal scales for each row of larger ventral scales. The cranium lacks osteoderms. There is no parietal foramen. The prefrontal extends onto the top of the cranium. The jugal is narrow, the postfronto-orbital is slightly expanded medially, and the ectopterygoid and palatine are widely separated. The teeth of both jaws are simple, and interdigitate when the mouth is closed.

- **Descriptions, Illustrations, Distribution, Fossil Record, and Pertinent Literature.** See species account.

- **Etymology.** The name *Cricosaura* is from the Greek meaning "ring lizard" (Peters, 1863), perhaps in reference to the rings of caudal scales.

- **Comment.** The phylogenetic relationships of *Cricosaura* within the family Xantusiidae are controversial. Savage (1964) suggested *Klauberina* as the closest, although distant, relative. Peterson and Bezy (1985) allied *Cricosaura* with *Xantusia*, and Crother et al. (1986) suggested *Lepidophyma* as the nearest relative.

*Cricolepis* Boulenger (1890:83) was proposed as a substitute name because *Cricosaura* supposedly was preoccupied by the crocodilian name *Cricosaurus* Wagner, 1860. However, under Articles 52, 56 and 58 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, 1985, *Cricosaurus* is not a senior homonym of *Cricosaura*.

***Cricosaura typica* Gundlach and Peters  
Cuban Night Lizard**

*Cricosaura typica* Gundlach and Peters, in Peters 1863:262. Type-locality, "Cabo Cruz, Cuba." Syntypes, Zool. Mus. Berlin 4832 and 5071, collected by J. Gundlach in 1863 (not examined by author).

*Cricolepis typica*: Boulenger, 1890:83. See generic account.

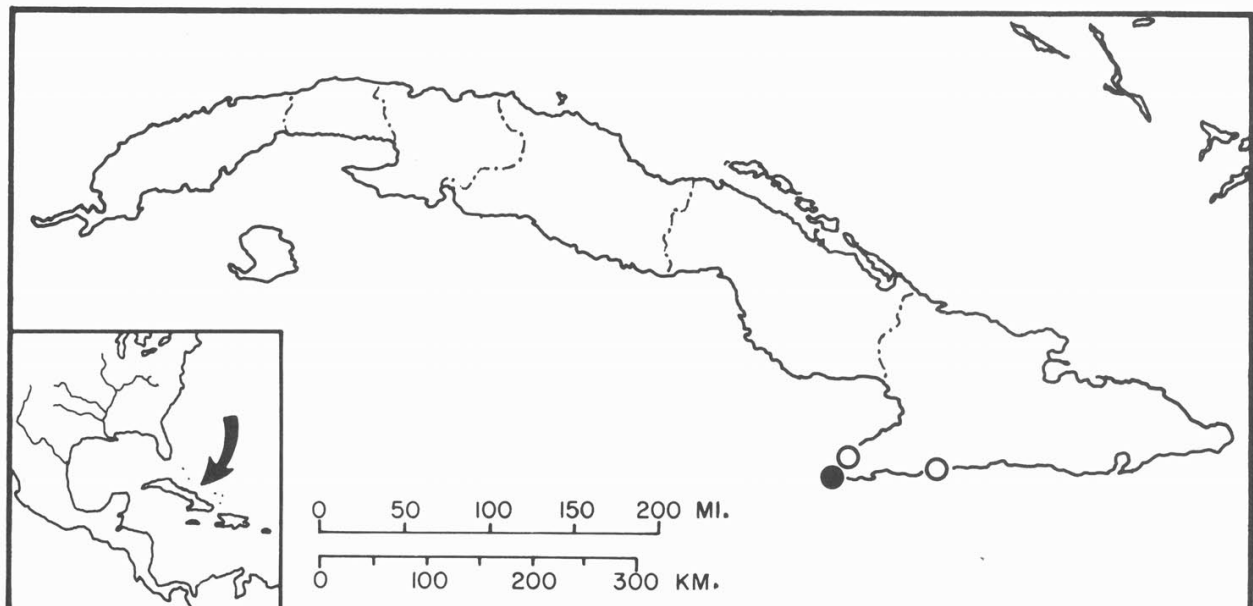
- **Content.** No subspecies have been described.

- **Definition.** See generic account.

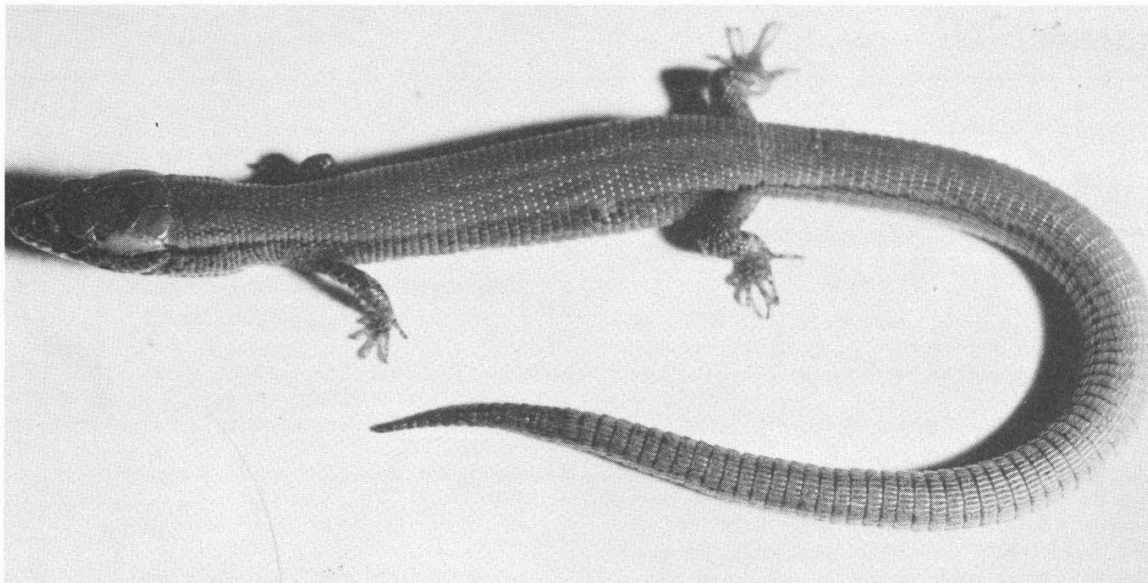
- **Descriptions.** Gundlach and Peters (in Peters, 1863) provided the original description. Other descriptions are in Bocourt (1878), Boulenger (1885), Barbour and Ramsden (1919, as *Cricolepis*), and Savage (1963, 1964).

- **Illustrations.** Gundlach and Peters (1863, figs. 1-6) gave line drawings of a dorsal view of the entire animal, and details of head, throat, anal region, and tongue. Bocourt (1878, Pl. 20E, figs 14-18) published an enlargement of Gundlach and Peters' plate. Barbour and Ramsden (1919, Pl. 4, fig. 2) gave a dorsal view of the entire animal, and (Pl. 11, fig. 1) a dorsal view of the head. Savage (1963, figs. 5-9) illustrated the pectoral girdle, manus, skull, and head scales. Savage (1964, figs. 2-4) gave dorsal and ventral photos of a whole preserved specimen, and line drawings in dorsal, ventral and lateral views of the head scutellation, of dorsal midbody scales, of anterior hind leg scales, and of caudal scales in lateral view.

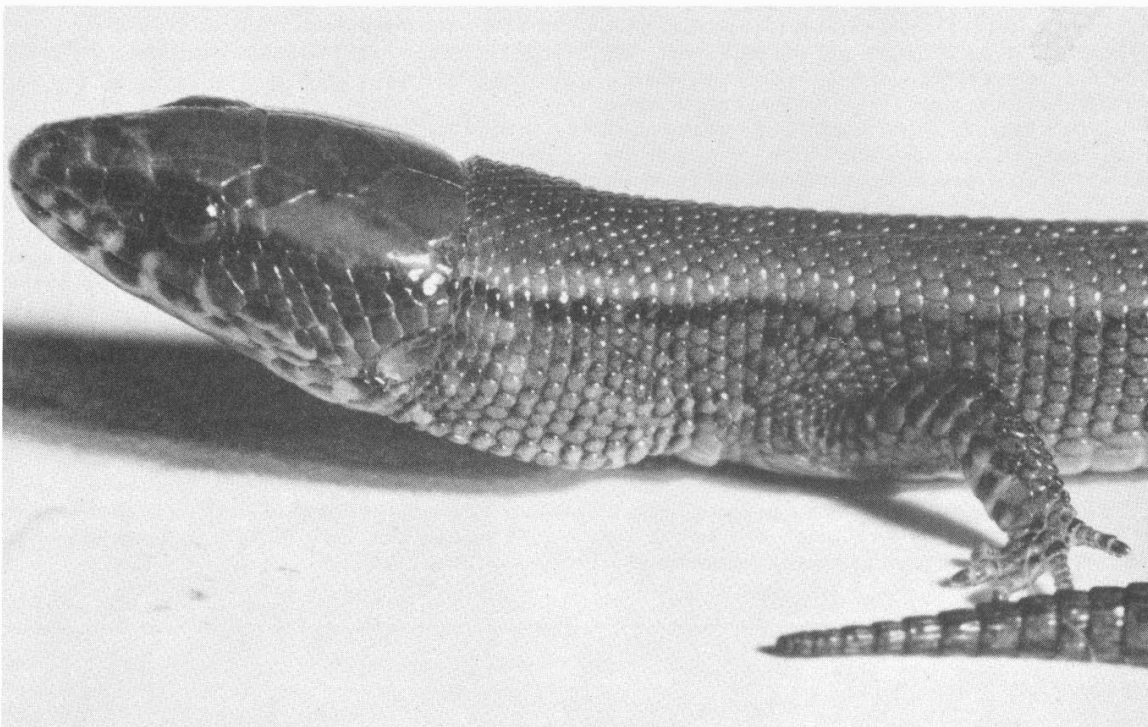
- **Distribution.** *Cricosaura typica* is known only from the type-locality and vicinity: Verreón, Belic (spelled Belig by Savage 1964, and Belie by Schwartz and Thomas, 1975), and El Uvero (south of Pico Turquino), southwestern Provincia de Granma (formerly Provincia del Oriente), Cuba (Schwartz, 1978; Garrido and Jaume, 1984).



**Map.** Solid circle indicates the type-locality. Open circles mark other localities.



**Figure 1.** *Cricosaura typica*, first published photograph of a living individual. Taken by Alfonso Silva Lee, courtesy of Alberto R. Estrada.



**Figure 2.** Detail of individual pictured above. Taken by Alfonso Silva Lee, courtesy of Alberto R. Estrada.

• **Fossil Record.** None

• **Pertinent Literature.** The basic taxonomic literature is given above. The species is included in the keys of Schwartz and Henderson (1985). Works on its systematics are in Cope (1864, 1883, 1900), Bocourt (1876); distribution and habits: Barbour (1914); habits: Burt and Myers (1942); distribution: Schwartz and Thomas (1975); phylogeny: Peters and Bezy (1985); and phylogeny and biogeography: Crother et al. (1986).

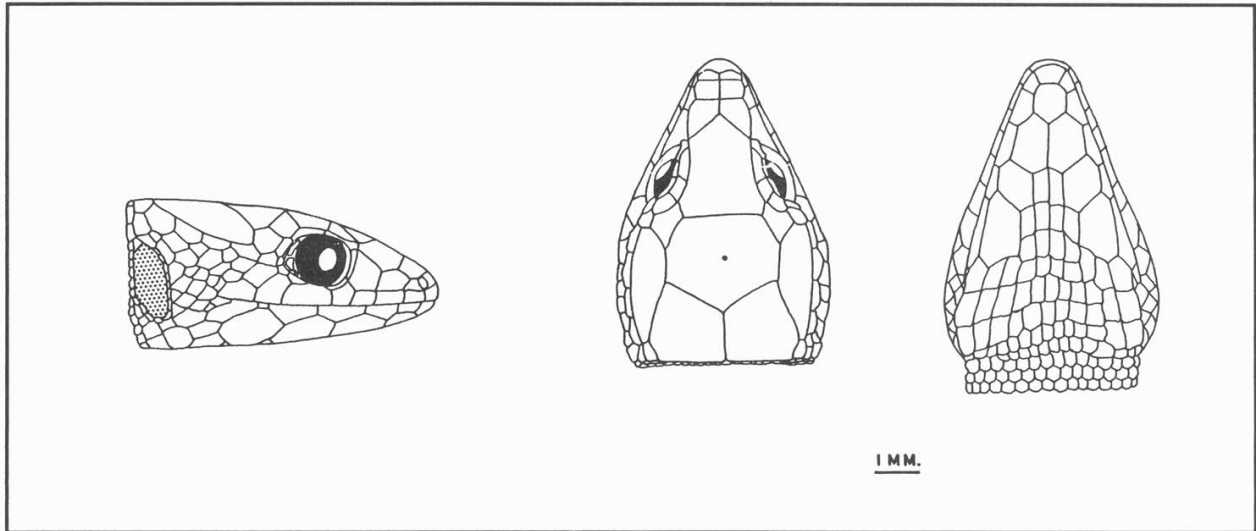
• **Etymology.** The name *typica* (Greek, *typikos*) means "typical." It is unclear to what the name alludes.

• **Comment.** The continued inaccessibility of this species makes it an ecological, physiological, and phylogenetic enigma. However, more specimens are in collections now than were mentioned by Savage (1964). Nineteen are at the U.S. National Museum of Natural History, a series is at the Carnegie Museum of Natural

History, and two are at the University of Kansas.

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**Figure 3.** Arrangement of head scales in *Cricosaura typica*. From Savage (1963).

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