

## Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

WILSON, LARRY DAVID. 1987. *Tantilla schistosa*.*Tantilla schistosa* (Bocourt)

*Homalocranium schistosum* Bocourt, 1883:584. Type-locality, "la Haute Vera Paz" [=Alta Verapaz] and "Mexique" [=México]; restricted to Alta Verapaz, Guatemala by Smith (1942). Lectoholotype, Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle Paris 1883-506, sex, age status, and date of collection unknown, collected by M.-F. Bocourt (examined by author).

*Tantilla schistosa*: Cope, 1887:83.

*Homalocranium schistosum*: Günther, 1895:152.

*Tantilla phrenetica* Smith, 1942:39. Type-locality, "Cauatlapán, Veracruz, [México]." Holotype, Nat. Mus. Natur. Hist. (USNM) 110381, female, collected 7-14 August 1940 by Hobart M. Smith (examined by author).

*Tantilla schistosa phrenetica*: Smith, 1962:13.

*Tantilla schistosa schistosa*: Smith, 1962:13.

*Tantilla schistosa taylori* Smith, 1962:17. Type-locality, "Suretka, [Prov. Limón], Costa Rica." Holotype, Univ. Kansas Mus. Natur. Hist. 35627, adult female, collected 1 August 1954 by Edward H. Taylor (examined by author).

- CONTENT. No subspecies are recognized (Wilson, 1982).

- DEFINITION AND DIAGNOSIS. "A species of *Tantilla* with a pale to dark brown dorsum, with or without a paling of color on the middorsal scale row. The head pattern consists of a complete or medially divided pale nuchal band separating the head color from that of the dorsum. The pale nuchal band begins on the posterior portion of the parietals and extends one-half to two scales posterior to the parietals. A postocular pale spot may or may not be present. The venter is immaculate cream or reddish orange. Ventrals and subcaudals range from 117 to 147 and 24 to 42, respectively.

*Tantilla schistosa* may be distinguished from all congeners by having a pale to dark brown dorsum with or without a paling of color on the middorsal scale row, no pale lateral stripe, a pale venter, a head cap more-or-less the same color as the dorsum of the body, a pale nuchal band, 117 to 147 ventrals and 24 to 42 subcaudals.

- DESCRIPTIONS. Descriptions of range-wide material are in Smith (1962), who recognized four subspecies, and Wilson (1982), who recognized none. Other descriptions of more limited scope are in Boulenger (1896), Darling and Smith (1954), Günther (1895), Neill and Allen (1962), Smith (1942, 1943), Taylor (1951, 1954), Wilson and Meyer (1982), and Wilson and Villa (1973).

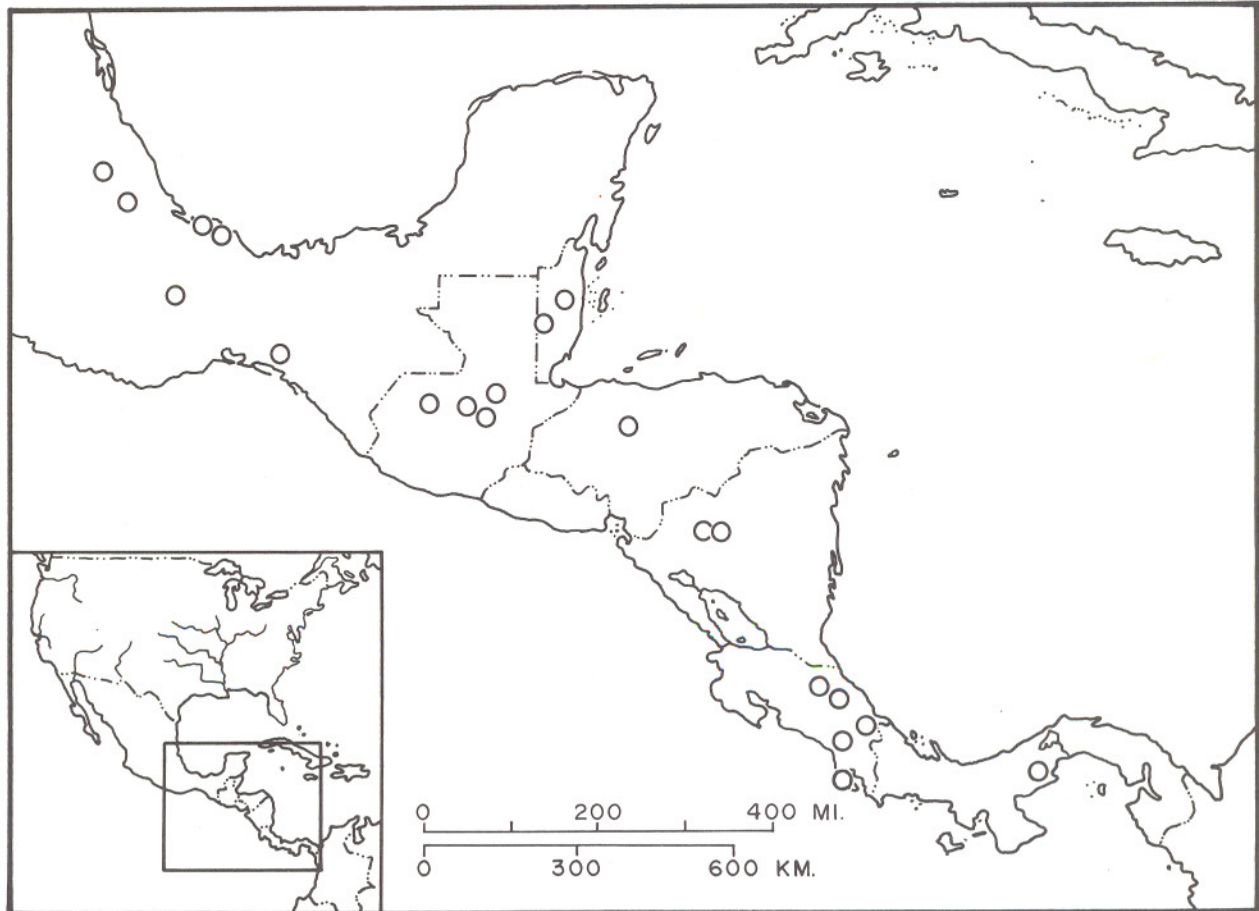
- ILLUSTRATIONS. Wilson (1982) presented black-and-white photographs of lateral and dorsal views of the head and anterior body. Darling and Smith (1954) included a black-and-white photograph of the entire body. Bocourt (1883) published pen-and-ink drawings of lateral, dorsal, and ventral views of the head and anterior body, as well as the rostral and nasal scales.

- DISTRIBUTION. *Tantilla schistosa* occurs at low, moderate, and intermediate elevations of the Caribbean versant from Veracruz and Oaxaca, México, to Panamá.

- FOSSIL RECORD. None.

- PERTINENT LITERATURE. The majority of the literature on this species deals with taxonomy. The most important papers on this aspect of this species' biology are cited elsewhere in this account. Information on habitat preference is included in Bogert and Duellman (1963), Scott (1969), and Taylor (1951). Data on microhabitat preference are in Stuart (1943, 1948, 1950). Shannon (1951) provided a note on activity, and Taylor (1951) one on predation. Stuart (1948) noted the time of collection of two newborn specimens, which was repeated by Fitch (1970).

- ETYMOLOGY. The name *schistosa* is derived from the Latin or Greek *schistos*, meaning "split," in presumed allusion to the separation of the dark head and body color by the pale nuchal band.



MAP 1. Known distribution of *Tantilla schistosa*; type-locality too indefinite to plot.

## LITERATURE CITED

- Bocourt, M.-F. 1873-1897. Études sur les reptiles. Mission scientifique au Mexique et dans l'Amérique Centrale—Recherches zoologiques. Livr. 2-15, p. 33-860.
- Bogert, Charles M., and William E. Duellman. 1963. A new genus and species of colubrid snake from the Mexican state of Oaxaca. *Amer. Mus. Novit.* (2162):1-15.
- Boulenger, G. A. 1896. Catalogue of the snakes in the British Museum (Natural History), Vol. 3. Taylor and Francis, London. xiv + 727 p.
- Cope, E. D. 1887. Catalogue of batrachians and reptiles of Central America and Mexico. *U.S. Nat. Mus. Bull.* 32:1-98.
- Darling, Donald M., and Hobart M. Smith. 1954. A collection of reptiles and amphibians from eastern Mexico. *Trans. Kansas Acad. Sci.* 15:180-195.
- Fitch, Henry S. 1970. Reproductive cycles in lizards and snakes. *Univ. Kansas Mus. Natur. Hist., Misc. Publ.* (52):1-247.
- Günther, A. 1885-1902. *Biologia Centrali-Americana. Reptilia and Batrachia.* Porter, London. xx + 326 p.
- Neill, Wilfred T., and Ross Allen. 1962. Reptiles of the Cambridge expedition to British Honduras, 1959-1960. *Herpetologica* 18:79-91.
- Scott, Norman J., Jr. 1969. A zoogeographic analysis of the snakes of Costa Rica. Ph.D. Thesis, Univ. So. California. 390 p.
- Shannon, Frederick A. 1951. Notes on a herpetological collection from Oaxaca and other localities in Mexico. *Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus.* 101:465-484.
- Smith, Hobart M. 1942. A résumé of Mexican snakes of the genus *Tantilla*. *Zoologica* 27:33-42.
- 1943. Summary of the collections of snakes and crocodilians made in Mexico under the Walter Rathbone Bacon Traveling Scholarship. *Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus.* 93:393-504.
- 1962. The subspecies of *Tantilla schistosa* of Middle America. *Herpetologica* 18:13-18.
- Stuart, L. C. 1943. Comments on the herpetofauna of the Sierra de los Cuchumatanes of Guatemala. *Occas. Pap. Mus. Zool. Univ. Michigan* (471):1-28.
- 1948. The amphibians and reptiles of Alta Verapaz, Guatemala. *Misc. Publ. Mus. Zool. Univ. Michigan* (69):1-109.
- 1950. A geographic study of the herpetofauna of Alta Verapaz, Guatemala. *Contrib. Lab. Vertebr. Biol. Univ. Michigan* (45):1-77.
- Taylor, Edward H. 1951. A brief review of the snakes of Costa Rica. *Univ. Kansas Sci. Bull.* 34:3-188.
- 1954. Further studies on the serpents of Costa Rica. *Univ. Kansas Sci. Bull.* 36:673-801.
- Wilson, Larry David. 1982. A review of the colubrid snakes of the genus *Tantilla* of Central America. *Milwaukee Publ. Mus. Contrib. Biol. Geol.* (52):1-77.
- , and John R. Meyer. 1982. The snakes of Honduras. *Milwaukee Publ. Mus. Contrib. Biol. Geol.* (6):1-159.
- , and Jaime Villa. 1973. Colubrid snakes of the genus *Tantilla* from Nicaragua. *Bull. S. California Acad. Sci.* 72:93-96.

LARRY DAVID WILSON, MIAMI-DADE COMMUNITY COLLEGE, MIAMI, FLORIDA 33176.

Primary editor for this account, Jaime D. Villa.

Published 27 March 1987. Copyright 1987 by the SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES.