

Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

CAMPBELL, HOWARD W. 1974. *Anelytropsis, A. papillosus*.*Anelytropsis* Cope
Mexican blind lizard*Anelytropsis* Cope, 1885:380. Type species, *Anelytropsis papillosus* Cope, 1885, by monotypy.

- CONTENT. One Recent species, *A. papillosus*, is recognized.

- DEFINITION. A small (200–500 mm. total length), limbless, burrowing lizard with concealed eyes; head slightly distinct from body, covered dorsally with 3 enlarged plates, nostril at junction of rostral, loreal and first labial scales; no ear opening; minute papillae present on rostral, first labial, and loreal; body scales smooth, in even or odd number of rows, scincoid, with rounded edges; osteoderms present; vent not terminal, tail one-fourth body length, with obtuse end; no preanal pores; color brownish flesh-color, head and tail tip lighter; pectoral girdle completely lacking, pelvic girdle reduced to a superior element (ilium) and an inferior element of uncertain homology; stapes perforated, in contact with quadrate; palatines and pterygoids not meeting, palatal teeth absent.

- DESCRIPTIONS, ILLUSTRATIONS, DISTRIBUTION, FOSSIL RECORD, and PERTINENT LITERATURE. See account of *Anelytropsis papillosus*.

- ETYMOLOGY. *Anelytropsis* was proposed to justify the family name Anelytropsidae Cope, which was based on *Anelytropsis* Duméril, a synonym of *Feylinia* Gray. Neither Duméril nor Cope discussed the etymology of the name, but it apparently is derived from the Greek *ana* (up or upon), *elytron* (shield), and *ops* (eye). The name is feminine.

COMMENT

Cope (1885) placed *Anelytropsis*, together with the African genera *Feylinia* and *Typhlosaurus*, in the family Anelytropsidae (also spelled Anelytropsidae by Cope, 1892a, b). Camp (1923)

separated the African and American forms, and reserved Anelytropsidae for *Anelytropsis*. The close relationship of *Anelytropsis* to the Scincidae has often been noted (Romer, 1956:548; Greer, 1970), and Nopcsa (1928) based a subfamily Anelytropsininae (= Anelytropsinae) of the Scincidae on this genus. I follow Miller (1966) in tentatively placing *Anelytropsis* in the family Dibamidae.

Anelytropsis papillosus Cope
Mexican blind lizard*Anelytropsis papillosus* Cope, 1885:380. Type locality, "near Jalapa, (Veracruz), Mexico." Syntypes originally in the collection of the Comisión Científica, now lost.

- CONTENT. No subspecies are recognized.

- DEFINITION. The only known species; see characters listed for *Anelytropsis*.

- DESCRIPTIONS. The best descriptions of scutellation, external and internal morphology are those of Cope (1885, 1900). Smith (1935) described variation in scutellation and noted the presence of caudal chevrons, and Axtell (1958) described a specimen from Tamaulipas, Mexico.

- ILLUSTRATIONS. Cope (1885) published line figures of dorsal, lateral and ventral views of the head, Smith (1935) provided photographs of the head in dorsal and lateral views, and Axtell (1958) included dorsal, lateral and ventral view drawings of the head. The tongue was illustrated by Bogert (1964), Miller (1966) provided lateral and medial illustrations of the cochlear duct, and Etheridge (1967) gave a schematic diagram of the caudal vertebrae. Cope (1892a) illustrated the pelvis.

- DISTRIBUTION. Known from intermediate elevations (300 to 2300 m) in the states of Tamaulipas, Veracruz, San Luis Potosí, and Querétaro, Mexico (18°38'N to 23°43'N). *Anelytropsis* has been found in humid tropical forest (Gadow, 1905), burrowing in rotten logs in dense brush (Smith, 1935), under a stone on a steep, rugged, bush-grown hillside (Pope, 1955), beneath a limestone rock on a hillside in semiarid deciduous vegetation (Axtell, 1958), and in pine-oak forest (University of Florida 29115). The range was discussed by Smith and Taylor (1950), and mapped by Bogert (1964).

Considering the ecological versatility of *Anelytropsis*, it can be expected to range farther westward than present records indicate, into the states of Nuevo León and Hidalgo. In addition to published locality records, specimens are known from: Querétaro, 4.1 mi. SW El Lobo, 6700' (University of Florida 29115); San Luis Potosí, 3.4 mi. W El Naranjo (University of Michigan Museum of Zoology 114444), El Salto (University of Southwestern Louisiana 20000), and 15 mi. N Tamazunchale (University of Southwestern Louisiana 19014).

- FOSSIL RECORD. None.

- PERTINENT LITERATURE. Comparisons with related forms are in Cope (1885, 1900). Camp (1923) and Underwood (1957) discussed relationships, Jollie (1960) commented on skull elements, and Romer (1956) mentioned characters of the skull, pectoral girdle, and teeth. Anatomical observations are in Cope (1892a, pelvic girdle), Walls (1942, eye), Bogert (1964, tongue), Miller (1966, inner ear), McDowell (1967, middle ear), and Etheridge (1967, caudal vertebrae).

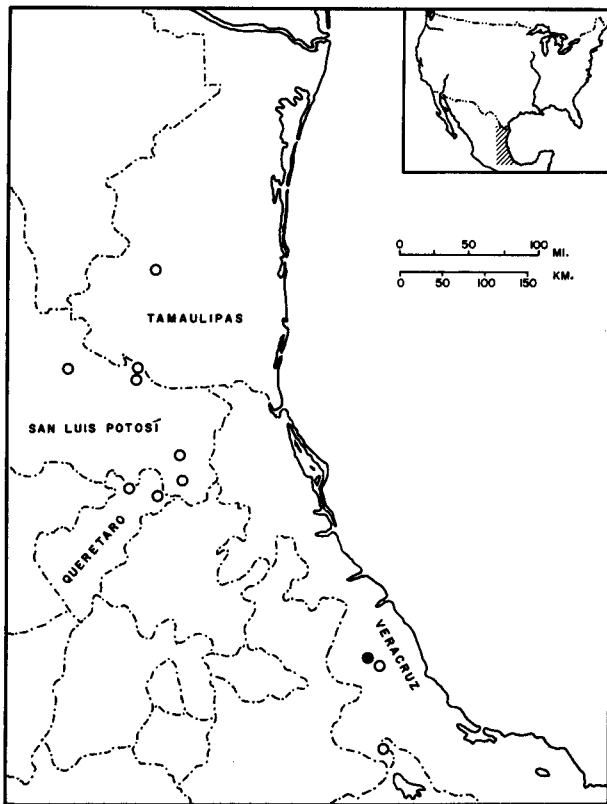
General habitat notes, and descriptions of individual specimens are in Smith (1935), and Axtell (1958). Dunn (1931) discussed *Anelytropsis* in his analysis of the zoogeography of the herpetofauna of the Americas.

- ETYMOLOGY. The name *papillosus* (Latin) refers to the papillae present on the anterior head scales.

- REMARKS. This species is known from only 16 specimens, of which four apparently are lost. Its biology is virtually unknown.

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MAP. The solid circle marks the type-locality; open circles indicate all known localities for this species.

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- HOWARD W. CAMPBELL, OFFICE OF ENDANGERED SPECIES, DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20240.
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