

Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

HARDY, LAURENCE M. 1976. *Ficimia streckeri*.

Ficimia streckeri Taylor
Mexican Hook-nosed snake

Ficimia streckeri Taylor, 1931:5. Type-locality, "three miles east of Rio Grande City [Starr County], Texas." Holotype, Univ. Kansas Mus. Nat. Hist. 9140, adult female, collected by Edward H. Taylor, 13 July 1930 (examined by author).

Ficimia olivacea streckeri: Smith, 1943:429.

• CONTENT. A monotypic species.

• DEFINITION. Smooth dorsal scales, usually in 18-18-17-17 rows, with single apical pits and no anal ridges; internasal usually absent; nasal entire above, divided below; loreal absent; one preocular; postoculars 1 or 2; 1 + 2 temporals; rostral contacting frontal, turned up in front and sharp edged; 7 supralabials, 3-4 contacting orbit, 2-3 contacting preocular; 7 infralabials, 1-3 contacting anterior chin shields; mental separated from anterior chin shields by mutual median contact of first infralabials; nasal separated from preocular and fused to first supralabial; 16-34 gulars; ventrals in 21 females 136-155 (\bar{x} = 143.5), in 37 males 126-151 (\bar{x} = 136.2); subcaudals in 23 females 28-37 (\bar{x} = 31.6), in 38 males 31-41 (\bar{x} = 35.6); anal plate divided; dorsal body blotches in 20 females 33-60 (\bar{X} = 44.3), in 32 males 36-52 (\bar{X} = 43.2). There are 13-14 maxillary teeth without fangs, grooves, or diastema; 7-8 palatine teeth; 12-16 dentary teeth (larger in center of tooth row).

The hemipenis is single with simple sulcus spermaticus; base naked except for one enlarged spine on each side of sulcus; tiny spines present near bases of enlarged spines, increasing in size and number distally, then decreasing in size and merging with spinulate calyces on distal one-half of organ; some larger spines present between enlarged basal spines and calyces; apex nude.

• DESCRIPTIONS. The first mention of *Ficimia streckeri* after the original description is a discussion of its evolutionary relationships and variation of three additional specimens (Smith and Taylor, 1941). Morphological variation of a large sample (more than 30) from southern Texas and Veracruz was given by Mulaik and Mulaik (1943). Additional data on individual specimens are in Smith (1944a, b), and Axtell (1950). Taylor (1949) presented data for 10 specimens from San Luis Potosí, and referred to them as burrowing snakes. Other San Luis Potosí specimens are described, with particular reference to single dorsal scale pits and to the appearance of the blotches, in Taylor (1950). Wright and Wright (1957) reported that this species is oviparous. Additional information on the holotype and descriptions of scutellation, dentition, coloration, and hemipenis are in Hardy (1975a). Günther (1893) probably had this species in hand when he gave blotch counts of the blotched "young" of *F. olivacea*. Steindachner (1870) also referred to this species under the name *F. olivacea*.

• ILLUSTRATIONS. The first illustrations of this species are in Steindachner (1870) under the name *F. olivacea*. A drawing that probably is of this species is in Günther (1893: plate 35, fig. C). Drawings of the head of this species are in Smith and Taylor (1941). Photographs (of the dorsum) of two specimens from San Luis Potosí are in Taylor (1950:446). Wright and Wright (1957) presented line drawings of the head (figs. 22, f, g, 305, 9), photographs of a specimen with an indistinct pattern (fig. 86), and a distribution map (map 26). Photographs of the head, midbody, and whole body of the holotype, and a photograph of a living specimen are in Hardy (1975a).

• DISTRIBUTION. *Ficimia streckeri* is distributed from near sea level in thorn forest of southern Texas and northern Tamaulipas to tropical deciduous forest in Veracruz and cloud forest at 1500 meters elevation in southern Tamaulipas.

• FOSSIL RECORD. None.

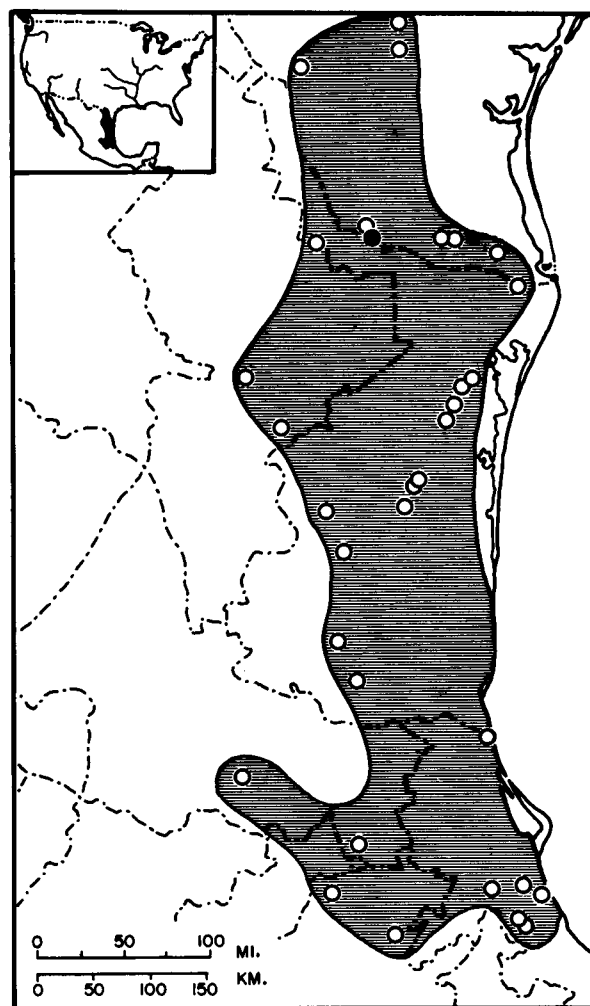
• PERTINENT LITERATURE. A discussion of evolutionary relationships, drawing of the head, a distribution map, and a generic key were first presented in Smith and Taylor (1941).

Evidence for considering this species a subspecies of *F. olivacea* was first presented by Smith in 1944a, on the basis of scale characters of one specimen each from Hidalgo and Nuevo León, even though Smith had already used the trinomen the year before (1943). A brief comment on the geographic distribution (as a subspecies of *F. olivacea*) is in Greer (1966). Taylor (1949) discussed geographic variation and compared a large sample from San Luis Potosí to the large sample studied by Mulaik and Mulaik (1943) and found no evidence of intergradation with *F. olivacea*. Brown and Brown (1967), using two specimens from Tamaulipas, agreed with Taylor that the species are not conspecific. They also pointed out that a dark suborbital spot on *F. streckeri* distinguishes that species from *F. olivacea*. However, Shannon and Smith (1949) implied that *F. streckeri* may be a subspecies of *F. olivacea* because one specimen from Tamaulipas has reduced and indistinct dorsal blotches. They further suggested that the northern population (*streckeri*) is distinctive in having fewer ventrals and caudals and only one postocular. Because of variable dorsal markings Martin (1958) considered *F. streckeri* and *F. olivacea* to be conspecific. The most recent revision is in Hardy (1975a), who supported the recognition of *F. streckeri* as a distinct species. Evolutionary relationships are discussed in Hardy (1975b).

• ETYMOLOGY. The specific epithet (*streckeri*) is a patronym for John K. Strecker (1875-1933), a noted biologist of Baylor University.

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MAP. The solid symbol marks the type-locality. Hollow symbols mark other known localities.

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