

## Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

Bauer, A.M. and A.P. Russell. 1993. *Aristelliger barbouri*.

***Aristelliger barbouri* (Noble and Klingel)**

*Aristelligella barbouri* Noble and Klingel, 1932:4. Type-locality, "South West Point, Great Inagua Island, B.W.I. [Bahamas]". Holotype, American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) 45829, adult female, collected by G.C. Klingel, February 1931 (examined by authors).

*Aristelliger barbouri*: Barbour, 1937:110. First use of combination. *Aristelliger* [*cochranae*]. *barbouri*: Hecht, 1951:24. See Nomenclatural History.

• **Content.** No subspecies are currently recognized.

• **Definition.** This species is a small member of the genus *Aristelliger*. Males reach 50 mm SVL and females 46 mm SVL (Hecht, 1952; Schwartz and Henderson, 1991). The lateral postmental scales are 1/2 - 3/4 as wide as the 1st infralabial scale, and contact each other along the midline. Lamellae number 7-11 on the 4th digit of the manus and 8-12 on the 4th digit of the pes. Small, asymmetrical adhesive plates occur adjacent to the claw on digits one, two, and five of the manus, and one and two of the pes.

The dorsal color pattern in adults develops from a pair of longitudinal dorsal stripes and cross-connections between them. The dorsal stripes are especially prominent in juveniles but somewhat to very faded in adults. The dorsum is gray to brown, with a series of eight thin dark transverse lines between nape and sacrum separating pale gray or brown diamonds or rectangles. Sometimes the dorsal pattern is evident as irregular brown or white transverse spots or streaks. Lateral bands continue the lines of the dorsal longitudinal stripes and are brown to reddish in color. Lighter, more lateral bands of a buff hue sometimes are bordered posteriorly by pale, incomplete parallel lines. The flanks are barred with buff and reddish-brown and may be flecked or streaked with white. The tail is banded with yellowish to dark brown bands or saddles. Hatchlings are darker brown in color and the dorsum bears eight pale gray, saddle-shaped areas, faintly edged with white, that extend from the occiput to the tail. The tail of juveniles is very dark brown with a middorsal series of "saddles" that continue along the tail as a series of white rings.

Eggs are oval and taper more sharply at one end. They measure 11.5-12 mm x 7.5-8.5 mm (Schwartz and Henderson, 1991). The shell is calcareous, colorless, and brittle. Hatchlings are 18 mm SVL (Noble and Klingel, 1932; Hecht, 1952; Schwartz and Henderson, 1991).

• **Diagnosis.** *Aristelliger barbouri* is distinguished from the larger members of the genus (*A. georgeensis*, *A. bechti*, *A. lar*, and *A. praesignis*) by having multiple small, asymmetrical adhesive plates adjacent to the claw on the digits rather than a single one on each manus and pes (see Nomenclatural History). This species is distinguished from the other small member of the genus (*A. cochranae*) by the number of dorsal cross-bands, the number of loreal scales (generally <16 in *A. barbouri* and >15 in *A. cochranae*) and the absence of a dark, sagittal, longitudinal stripe running from the snout to at least as far posteriorly as the shoulders, as in *A. cochranae*.

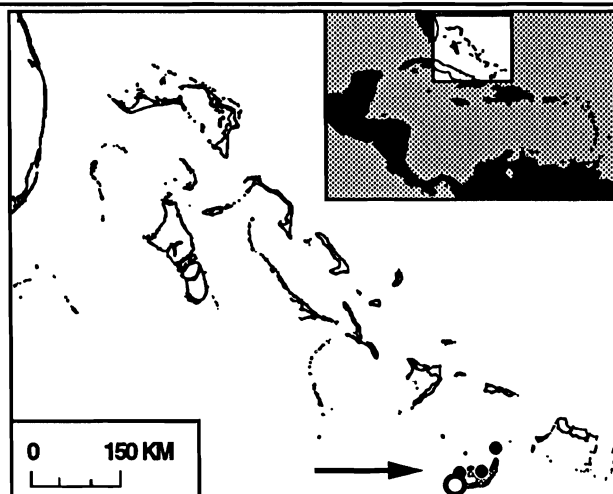
• **Descriptions.** Detailed descriptions were provided by Noble and Klingel (1932) and Schwartz and Henderson (1991).

• **Illustrations.** Noble and Klingel (1932) furnished photographs of living adult and juvenile specimens and eggs, and line drawings of the manus and pes.

• **Distribution.** *Aristelliger barbouri* is native to the Bahama Islands and is known from Great Inagua, Little Inagua, and Sheep Cay, where the species occupies dry sheltered sites in dead vegetation or logs. A range map is in Schwartz and Henderson (1991).

• **Fossil Record.** None.

• **Pertinent Literature.** Noble and Klingel (1932) summarized ecological information, including details of activity periods, refugia, and climatic and floristic associations. Egg-laying sites and characteristics were also documented, as were details of the physiology of the



**Map.** Distribution of *Aristelliger barbouri* in the southern Bahamas. The large, open circle indicates the type-locality. Solid circles mark other known records.

female reproductive tract. Schwartz and Henderson (1991) reiterated most of this information and also documented the incubation period and behavior at hatching. Hecht (1952) provided additional information on minimal breeding size. Kluge (1967) reported the number of scleral ossicles and Kluge (1987) documented clutch size. Hecht (1951) discussed relationships within the genus.

• **Nomenclatural History.** Noble and Klingel (1932) erected the genus *Aristelligella* for *A. barbouri* on the basis of the difference in disposition of the offset single plates that occur adjacent to the claws on some digits, distinguishing this taxon from *Aristelliger*. Hecht (1951) recognized *Aristelligella* as a monotypic subgenus containing *A. barbouri* and *A. cochranae*. A number of authors following Hecht (1951, 1952) regarded *A. barbouri* as a subspecies of *A. cochranae*. Schwartz (1968) again accorded this taxon specific rank, an arrangement followed by all subsequent workers.

• **Etymology.** The specific epithet is a patronym honoring Thomas Barbour (1884-1946), then Director of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, and long time student of the systematics and zoogeography of island faunas.

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