

REPTILIA: SQUAMATA: SERPENTES: COLUBRIDAE STILOSOMA, S. EXTENUATUM

Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

HIGHTON, RICHARD. 1976. *Stilosoma*, *S. extenuatum*.

***Stilosoma* Brown**
Short-tailed snake

Stilosoma Brown, 1890:199. Type-species *Stilosoma extenuata* Brown, 1890, by monotypy.

Stylogoma Cope, 1895:205. Orthographic emendation of *Stilosoma* Brown.

Stylophis Berg, 1901:290. Substitute name for *Stylosoma*, erroneously thought to be preoccupied by a genus of Coleoptera (see Highton, 1956, for explanation).

• CONTENT. One living species *S. extenuatum*, and one fossil species, *S. vetustum*, are recognized.

• DEFINITION. A colubrid snake with very slender, cylindrical body; tail short; head rounded on frontal outline, not distinct from body; rostral prominent but not recurved; prefrontals and internasals fused or not; preocular usually present; two postoculars; loreal absent; nasal single; parietal in contact with fifth supralabial; supralabials 6; infralabials 5-8; two pairs of elongated enlarged chin shields; ventrals in males 239-261, in females 256-277; caudals in males 38-48, in females 33-45, most divided; anal single; scales smooth, usually in 19 rows; no scale pits; 48-79 dorsal blotches on body, 8-16 on tail; teeth smooth; palatal teeth present.

• FOSSIL RECORD. Auffenberg (1963:186) described a Middle Pliocene species, *Stilosoma vetustum*, from near Haile, Alachua County, Florida. Auffenberg (1963) also questionably referred a single Pleistocene vertebra from Arredondo, Alachua County, Florida to *Stilosoma extenuatum*.

• DESCRIPTIONS, ILLUSTRATIONS, DISTRIBUTION, AND PERTINENT LITERATURE. See species account.

• ETYMOLOGY. The neuter name *Stilosoma* is from the Greek words *stylos* (pillar or column) and *soma* (body), referring to the elongated cylindrical structure of the body.

***Stilosoma extenuatum* Brown**
Short-tailed snake

S[tilosoma]. extenuata Brown, 1890:199. Type-locality, "Lake Kerr [Marion County], Florida." Holotype, Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia 3351, adult male, collected by N. P. Fry, date of collection unknown, now lost (examined by author).

Stilosoma extenuatum: Cope, 1892:595. Orthographic emendation.

Stylosoma extenuatum: Cope, 1895: pl. 18, fig. 12.

Stylophis extenuatus: Stejneger and Barbour, 1917:90.

Stilosoma extenuatum extenuatum: Highton, 1956:83.

Stilosoma extenuatum arenicola: Highton, 1956:86. Type-locality, "Lecanto, Citrus County, Florida." Holotype, Florida State Museum 1574, an adult male, collected by O. F. Swed September 1927 (examined by author).

Stilosoma extenuatum multistictum: Highton 1956:88. Type-locality, "Devil's Millhopper (3.7 mi. N., 4.2 mi. W. Gainesville), Alachua County, Florida." Holotype, Florida State Museum 8088, a male, collected by Richard Highton 4 July 1953 (examined by author).

Stilosoma extenuatum arenicolor: Conant, 1958:176. Invalid emendation.

• CONTENT. Three subspecies were recognized by Highton (1956) and 2 by Cochran and Goin (1970), but the species is here considered monotypic. See COMMENT.

• DEFINITION. See generic account.

• DESCRIPTIONS. Highton (1956) described variation and reviewed the literature on the species. Cope (1895) and Wright and Wright (1957) described the hemipenis. Auffenberg (1963:186) described the precaudal vertebrae.

• ILLUSTRATIONS. Black and white photographs appeared in Ditmars (1933, 1939), Schmidt and Davis (1941), Allen and Neill (1953), Carr and Goin (1955), Wright and Wright (1957),

and Cochran and Goin (1970). A color photograph appeared in Conant (1975).

• DISTRIBUTION. The range of *Stilosoma extenuatum* includes north and central peninsula Florida, west of the St. Johns River.

• FOSSIL RECORD. See under generic account.

• PERTINENT LITERATURE. The most recent taxonomic revision is that of Highton (1956), but see COMMENT. The behavior and feeding habits of captives were described by Carr (1934), Ditmars (1939) and Schmidt and Davis (1941). The ecology and geographic distribution are discussed by Carr (1940), Allen and Neill (1953), Highton (1956), and Woolfenden (1962). An intestinal parasite was described by Bovee and Telford (1962).

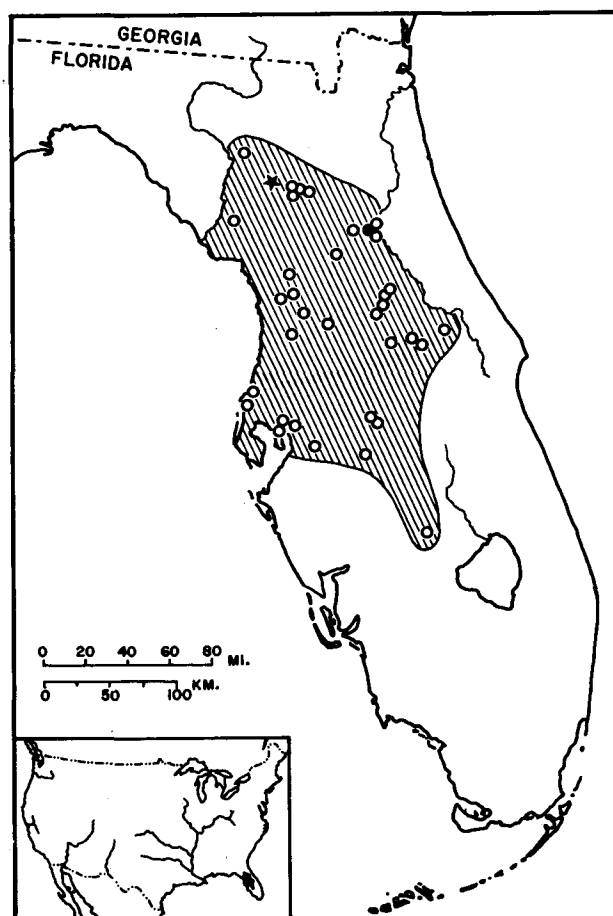
• ETYMOLOGY. The name *extenuatum* comes from the Latin (thin).

COMMENT

Highton (1956) recognized three subspecies on the basis of discordant variation in the number of body blotches and fusion of head scales. Woolfenden (1962) reported more variation in Hillsborough County material than was present in southwestern material available to Highton and questioned the validity of recognizing two western subspecies (*arenicola* and *multistictum*). Cochran and Goin (1970) recognized only two subspecies (*extenuatum* and *arenicola*). Since variation in the known geographically variable characters of the species is discordant, no subspecies are here recognized.

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MAP. Solid symbol marks the type-locality, hollow symbols mark other known localities. The star indicates a Pliocene fossil locality.

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RICHARD HIGHTON, DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK, MARYLAND 20742.

Primary editor for this account, Larry David Wilson.

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