

## Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

Liner, E.A. 1996. *Rhadinaea montana*.

***Rhadinaea montana* Smith**  
 Nuevo León Graceful Brown Snake  
 Hojarsquera de Nuevo León

*Rhadinaea quinquelineata* (not of Cope): Bailey, 1940:11, 12, pl. 1, fig. 1 (part: Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia [ANSP] 15355 [midbody pattern figured] = paratype of *R. montana*).

*Rhadinaea montana* Smith, 1944:146. Type-locality, "Ojo de Agua, near Galeana, Nuevo León, México." Holotype, Field Museum of Natural History (FMNH) 308266, adult female, collected 11 August 1938 by Harry Hoogstraal and party (not examined by author).

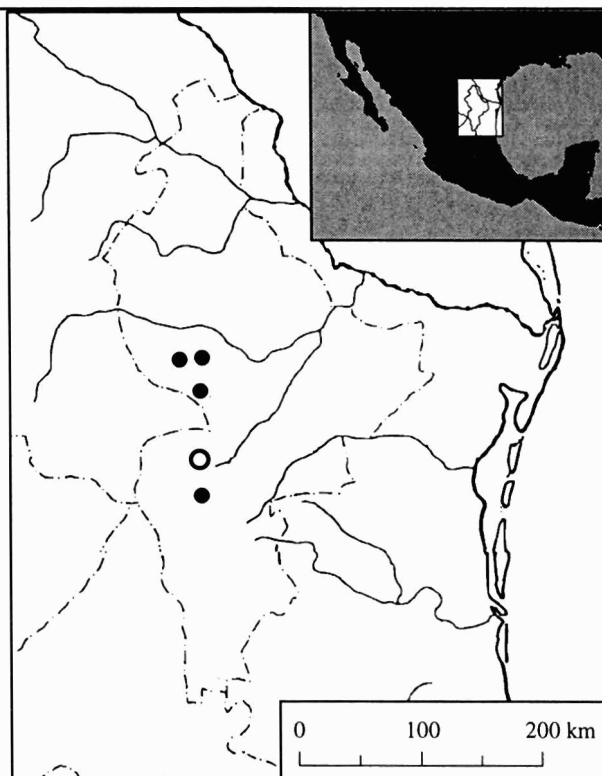
• **Content.** No subspecies are recognized.

• **Definition and Diagnosis.** This species is a striped member of the genus *Rhadinaea* characterized by having 17-17-17 dorsal scale rows; 171-186 ventrals (171 in the only known male); 97-101 subcaudals (100 in the only male); 8 supralabials; 10 infralabials; 1 preocular (a subpreocular usually between the 3rd and 4th supralabials); 2 postoculars; 1 + 2 temporals; anal (= cloacal) plate divided; anal ridges on the male, weakly evident on some females; tail length/body length 33.0% in one male, 28.1-33.0% in five females; a narrow vertebral dark line bordered by paler area and in turn by a darker dorsolateral brown band involving scale rows 6, 7, and the adjacent half of 8; a cream lateral stripe involving scale rows 4 and adjacent halves of 3 and/or 5, edged with black and continuing to the tip of the tail; area below the lateral stripe a paler brown; ventrals and subcaudals immaculate and nearly white; a dark dot or black specks at the edges of the ventrals and subcaudals forming a thin broken line; vertebral and dorsolateral stripes converging on the tail, where they gradually fade; head brown or with speckling of dark brown on a paler background dorsally; a pale cream lateral stripe, continuous or broken near the last supralabial, passing from the rostral through the upper eye and curving downward through the corner of the mouth; male with a pair of parietal spots; white supralabials with a broken, brown line dorsally; and infralabials dotted with dark brown.

Teeth are 17 + 2 or 19 + 2 with all prediastemal teeth lying anterior to the front edge of the ectopterygoid process; the last fang is offset laterally (Myers, 1974).

The retracted hemipenis (Myers, 1974) extends to the end of the fifth subcaudal, and the retractor muscle originates at the level of the twenty-third subcaudal. On the sulcate side, the capitulum is slightly less than half of the length of the organ. The calyces are spinulate on the asulcate fold and the edge of the capitulum, and papillate elsewhere. The sulcus spermaticus forks at about one third of the length of the retracted organ and, on the asulcate side, the capitulum wall forms a single fold. About 20 small to medium sized, slightly recurved spines are below the capitulum. Some medium sized spines are arranged in two parallel rows of four each on the asulcate side. The entire basal half of the organ is nearly nude, except for some minute spinules.

• **Descriptions.** Bailey (1940) gave a composite description (including *R. montana*) under the name *Rhadinaea quinquelineata*. Smith (1944) provided a description of the holotype and one paratype, and placed the specimen available to Bailey



**Map.** Distribution of *Rhadinaea montana*. The circle marks the type-locality, dots mark the other known records. A range outline is not provided due to the paucity of records.



**Figure.** *Rhadinaea montana* from 4.3 km N Las Adjuntas, Nuevo León, México (EAL 5002). Photograph by author.

(1940) in his new species as an additional paratype. Myers (1974) included descriptions of those three specimens, plus another, which had become available at the time of his revision of the genus.

• **Illustrations.** Bailey (1940) labelled as *R. quinquelineata* a line drawing of the middorsal area of a paratype. Myers (1974) provided a photograph of the head and a line drawing of the midbody of the holotype. Coburn (1991) furnished a color photograph.

• **Distribution.** The species is known only from the northern Sierra Madre Oriental in central Nuevo León. Specimens have been taken from Monterrey (ANSP 15355); La Huacteca, 21 km W Monterrey (KU 92621); Ojo de Agua, near Galeana

(FMNH 30826, 40814); Ojo de Agua at Pablillo (EAL 3095), and 4.3 km N Las Adjuntas (EAL 5002).

• **Fossil Record.** None.

• **Pertinent Literature.** The literature dealing with this species is almost entirely descriptive. Bailey (1940) recorded the first specimen under the name *R. quinquelineata*, and provided a composite description. Smith (1944) described the species based on two additional specimens not available to Bailey. Myers (1974) again gave descriptions, including one of an additional specimen, and stated that virtually nothing is known of this species except that it lives farther north than any other montane species in the genus. He placed *R. montana* in the *Rhadinaea decorata* group, along with *bogertum*, *cuneata*, *decorata*, *forbesi*, *gaigeae*, *hesperia*, *macdougalli*, *marcellae*, *myersi*, and *quinquelineata*. Chaney and Liner (1986, 1990) recorded two additional localities in central Nuevo León and provided elevational data. Liner and Chaney (1987) gave information on the elevation and habitat of an individual collected by them.

This species is included in a list of type material from Nuevo León (Liner, 1996) and in faunal lists by Smith and Taylor (1945), Flores-Villela (1993), and Liner (1994). Smith and Taylor (1945) also provided a key.

• **Etymology.** The specific name *montana* refers to the occurrence of this species in mountains.

• **Remarks.** Little is known of this rare snake. Only seven specimens are known to the author, with only six being available. Of these six, four were collected in association with springs, the holotype, one paratype, and two specimens collected by the author and Allan H. Chaney. The type-locality is a spring located 34 km NNE of Galeana at the 14th de Marzo (2134 m), a village at the base of Cerro Potosí. Originally, the spring was surrounded by a marshy area, but the spring has been capped, water runoff controlled, and the former marshy area is now cultivated. The spring at Pablillo (2134 m) has also been capped and the water flow controlled by irrigation ditches. Some of the water is piped to nearby villages. The locality 4.3 km (by road) N Las Adjuntas (792.5 m) was along a stream with seeps on the mountainsides in the Cumbres de Monterrey. The area is heavily forested with pine and oak.

## Literature Cited

- Bailey, J.R. 1940. The Mexican snakes of the genus *Rhadinaea*. Occ. Pap. Mus. Zool. Univ. Michigan 412:1-19.
- Chaney, A.H. and E.A. Liner. 1986. Geographic distribution: *Rhadinaea montana*. Herpetol. Rev. 17:67.
- and —. 1990. Geographic distribution: *Rhadinaea montana* (Nuevo León yellow-lipped snake). Herpetol. Rev. 21:23-24.
- Coborn, J. 1991. The atlas of snakes of the world. T.F.H. Publ., Inc., Neptune City, New Jersey.
- Flores-Villela, O. 1993. Herpetofauna Mexicana. Lista anotada de las especies de anfibios y reptiles de México, cambios taxonómicos recientes, y nuevas especies. Annotated list of the species of amphibians and reptiles of Mexico, recent taxonomic changes, and new species. Carnegie Mus. Nat. Hist. Spec. Publ. (17):iv + 73 p.
- Liner, E.A. 1994. Scientific and common names for the amphibians and reptiles of Mexico in English and Spanish. Nombres científicos y comunes en inglés y español de los anfibios y los reptiles de México. SSAR Herpetol. Circ. (23):vi + 113 p.
- . 1996. Herpetological type material from Nuevo León, México. Bull. Chicago Herpetol. Soc. 31:168-171.
- and A.H. Chaney. 1987. Life history notes: *Rhadinaea montana* (Nuevo León yellow-lipped snake) (habitat). Herpetol. Rev. 18:37.
- Myers, C.W. 1974. The systematics of *Rhadinaea* (Colubridae), a genus of New World snakes. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. 153:1-262.
- Smith, H.M. 1944. Snakes of the Hoogstraal expeditions to northern México. Field Mus. Nat. Hist., Zool. Ser. 29:135-152.
- and E.H. Taylor. 1945. An annotated checklist and key to the snakes of Mexico. Smithsonian Inst. Bull. (187):iv + 239 p.

---

Ernest A. Liner, 310 Malibou Blvd., Houma, LA 70364-2598, USA.

Primary editor for this account, Larry David Wilson.

Published 20 December 1996 and Copyright © 1996 by the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles.

---