

Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

Lieb, C.S. 1991. *Dendrophidion paucicarinatum*.

***Dendrophidion paucicarinatum* (Cope)**
Talamanca Forest Racer

Drymobius paucicarinatus Cope, 1894:202. Type locality, "La Candelaria," Costa Rica, believed by Savage (1974) to represent Monte Redondo, in Cantón de Aserri, San José Province. Holotype, American Museum of Natural History 17268, adult female, collected by Bruno Carranza, date unknown (examined by author).

Dendrophidion paucicarinatus: Stuart, 1933:9.

Dendrophidion paucicarinatum: Savage, 1973:14.

- **Content.** This species is monotypic.



Figure 1. Dorsal view of an adult male *Dendrophidion paucicarinatum* (KU 63788), from Cichona, Alajuela Prov., Costa Rica. Photograph by Larry David Wilson.

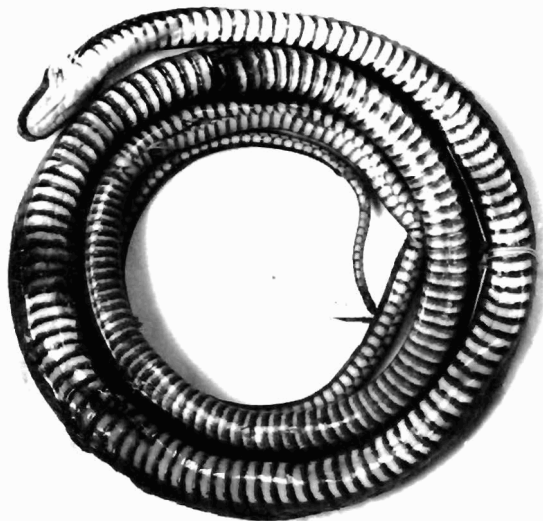
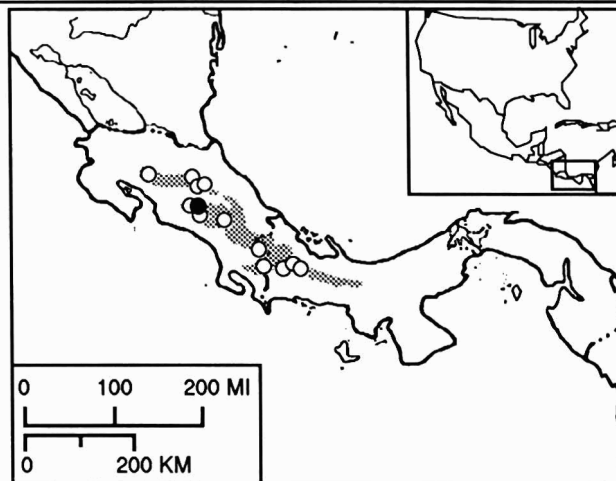


Figure 2. Ventral view of an adult male *Dendrophidion paucicarinatum* (KU 63788), from Cichona, Alajuela Prov., Costa Rica. Photograph by Larry David Wilson.



Map. Solid circle represents type locality, open circles indicate other localities. The approximate geographic range is suggested by the shaded area.

- **Definition.** *Dendrophidion paucicarinatum* is a species of *Dendrophidion* reaching a maximum total length of 138 cm and with 17 dorsal scale rows anteriorly and 15 posteriorly. Usually 13 or fewer rows are keeled in adults. Ventrals range from 179-195, subcaudals from 119-139. The cloacal scute is usually divided. The dorsocaudal scale row reduction from eight to six rows occurs between subcaudals 7 and 24. Hemipenes of males are without proximal ornamentation, but have small hooklets distally.

Dorsal coloration of adults is uniform gray, gray-green, or brown. Juveniles have narrow dark and pale crossbands one to two scale rows wide. Ventral coloration in life is white to bright lemon yellow; in adults, dark gray suffusions are present medially on the margins of the ventral scales.

- **Diagnosis.** *Dendrophidion paucicarinatum* may be distinguished from all congeners by its relatively high number of ventral scales. Additional diagnostic character states, shared with at least one other species of *Dendrophidion* (given in parentheses), include: dorsocaudal scale row reduction occurring anterior to subcaudal scale 25 (*D. brunneum*, *D. bosbelli*, *D. percarinatum*), uniform dorsum in adults (*D. brunneum*), and dark suffusions on the ventral scales (*D. brunneum*, *D. nuchale*, *D. dendrophis*).

- **Descriptions.** Descriptive information is provided by Cope (1894), Stuart (1933), Taylor (1951), and Lieb (1988).

- **Illustrations.** The species has not been heretofore illustrated.

- **Distribution.** *Dendrophidion paucicarinatum* is restricted to mid-and upper elevations (ca. 1000-1600 m) of the Cordillera Central of Costa Rica, and the Cordillera Talamanca of Costa Rica and western Panamá.

- **Fossil Record.** None.

- **Pertinent Literature.** Stuart (1933) compared a few individuals of *D. paucicarinatum* from Panamá with the type, distinguished the species from *D. dendrophis* (Schlegel), and summarized the known distributional information. Dunn (1947) listed the species as part of the fauna of the Lérída and Boquete regions of western Panamá. Peters and Orejas-Miranda (1970) provided a synonymy and a summary of distribution. Wilson (1970) mentioned the species in context of misidentified *Drymobius melanotropis* in museum collections. Savage and Villa (1986) indicated the distribution of the form in Costa Rica, and included the taxon in their identification keys. Villa et al. (1988) provided a bibliography. Lieb (1988) summarized overall relationships, distribution, and variation.

- **Etymology.** The name *paucicarinatum* is a compound Latin adjective (*pauci* + *carinatus*) that translates as "few-keeled." The intent of the describer (Cope, 1894) seems to have been to complete

ment his choice of the epithet *percarinatus* for a second, more heavily keeled Costa Rican species described in an earlier work. The *-um* ending is appropriate for the gender of the genus (neuter).

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