

Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

Villa, Jaime and Larry David Wilson. 1988. *Celestus bivittatus*.

Celestus bivittatus (Boulenger)

Diploglossus (*Celestus*) *steindachnerii*: Bocourt, 1879: 383 (not of Cope, 1864).

Diploglossus bivittatus Boulenger, 1894: 732. Type-locality, "Hacienda Rosa de Jericho, Nicaragua, 3250 feet" [= Santa Rosa de Jericó, Departamento de Matagalpa, near Matagalpa City, according to Villa, 1971]. Holotype, British Museum (Natural History) 1946.8.29.37, a juvenile female collected by E. Rothschuh in 1894 (examined by authors).

Celestus enneagrammus: Cope 1900: 54 (part).

Celestus atitlanensis Smith, 1950: 195. Type-locality, "Atitlán, Guatemala" (probably San Lucas Atitlán according to Stuart, 1963). Holotype, Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris 5206, an adult female, collector and date of collection unknown (examined by authors).

C. [elestus]. bivittatus: Smith, 1950: 195 (footnote). First use of combination.

Celestus sp., Villa, 1983: 27.

Diploglossus atitlanensis: Wermuth 1969: 4.

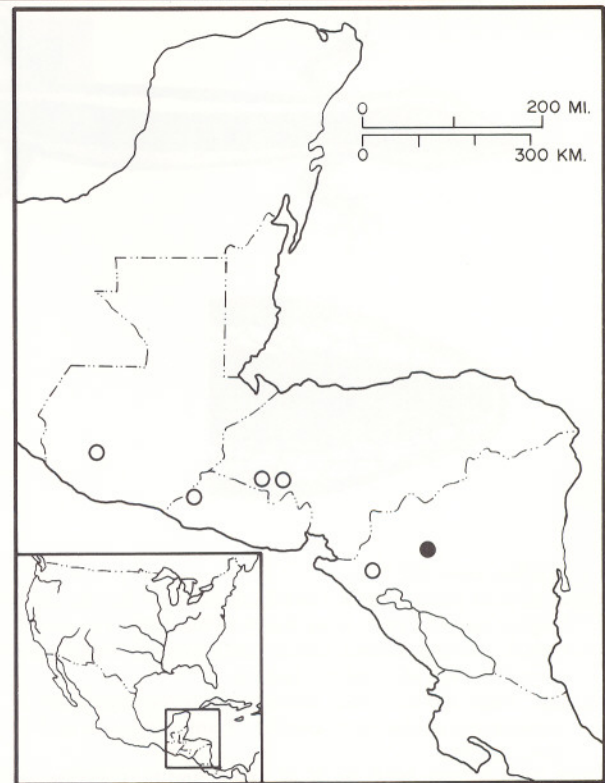
- **Content.** No subspecies have been described.
- **Definition.** A medium-sized (males to 81 mm, females to 111.4 mm in snout-vent length) species of *Celestus* with 29-31 scales around the body, 73-79 middorsals, 79-85 scales between the postmental and the vent, and 8-10 preanals.

There are 14-18 subdigital lamellae under the 4th toe. There are 6-10 supraciliaries, 1-3 suboculars, 3-5 postoculars, 1-3 loreals, 3-5 primary and secondary temporals, 9-11 supralabials (6-7 to the center of the eye), 6-9 infralabials, and 3-4 pairs of chin shields (the first pair in contact in most specimens). The rostral contacts the nasal and the first supralabial in most specimens. The nostril is large, ovoid, and situated on the posterior portion of an elongate nasal. The frontal is flanked by 5 medial supraoculars, the first and/or second in contact with a prefrontal.

The juvenile color (in life) is dark chocolate dorsally with a dorso-lateral stripe on each side, which starts on the rostral is and gold on the head grading to a golden bronze posteriorly. The tail is brilliant red-orange. The limbs are dark reddish brown dorsally and brick red ventrally. The posterior portion of the venter is an orange-green color grading to brilliant reddish orange just anterior to the vent. The labials and lateral neck area are pale chartreuse. Adults are dark brown dorsally with each scale darker medially and paler laterally. The dorsolateral stripes are bright golden pink grading to dull copper at the midbody and fusing on the base of the tail to become the same color as the tail. The head is dark brown medially, with bright copper stripes laterally. The temporal area and the lateral area of the body anterior to the insertion of the forelimbs are dark brown. The supralabials have cream-colored markings. The chin is pale yellow. The venter is pale yellow with a copper patina.

• **Diagnosis.** *Celestus bivittatus* differs from its congeners in having the following characteristics: 29-31 scales around midbody; 73-79 mid-dorsals; a median prefrontal which is wider than long and in contact with the frontal and two supraoculars; frontal longer than wide and in contact with the first supraocular; two light dorsolateral stripes.

• **Descriptions.** The most comprehensive description is in Wilson et al. (1986). Boulenger (1894) and Hidalgo (1982) each described a single specimen from Nicaragua and El Salvador, respectively.



Map. Solid symbol marks the type-locality. Hollow symbols mark other localities.

• **Illustrations.** Bocourt (1879, pl. 22, erroneously cited as pl. 22A in the text) published pen-and-ink drawings of the dorsal and lateral views of the head, as well as a dorsal and two snout-scales of a preserved specimen labelled *Diploglossus* (*Celestus*) *steindachnerii*. Boulenger (1894, pl. 48, fig. 5) provided a pen-and-ink-drawing of the holotype of *bivittatus*, including a closeup of the head viewed dorsally. Hidalgo (1982) illustrated the dorsal view of the head of a specimen from El Salvador. Wilson et al. (1986) published photographs of an adult female and its juvenile offspring.

• **Distribution.** *Celestus bivittatus* is found in humid environments occurring from low to moderate elevations (800-1982m) in Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua, most frequently in pine forests.

• **Fossil Record.** None.

• **Pertinent Literature.** The most comprehensive account of this species, which includes a general description as well as information on scutellation, taxonomic and natural history, is in Wilson et al. (1986).

• **Etymology.** The specific name *bivittatus* means "two lined" in reference to the two dorsolateral light stripes most evident in the juveniles of this species.

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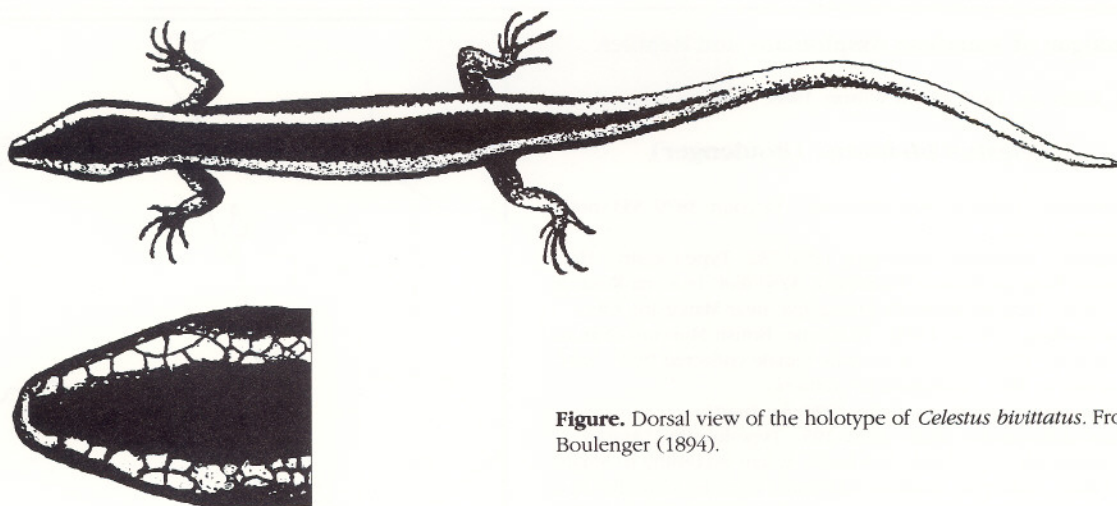


Figure. Dorsal view of the holotype of *Celestus bivittatus*. From Boulenger (1894).

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