

Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

WILSON, LARRY DAVID. 1985. *Tantilla jani*.

Tantilla jani (Günther)

Homalocranium jani Günther, 1895:148. Type-locality, "Guatemala." Lectoholotype, British Mus. (Natural History) 1946.1.8.68, adult female, collected on behalf of F. D. Godman (perhaps by G. C. Champion), date of collection unknown (examined by author).

Homalocranium fuscum: Boulenger, 1896:220 (part).

Tantilla fusca: Slevin, 1939:411.

Tantilla jani: Smith, 1942:36.

Tantilla janni: Beltrán, 1953:132.

• CONTENT. No subspecies are recognized.

• DEFINITION AND DIAGNOSIS. A species of *Tantilla* with a muted pale middorsal stripe or series of pale dots (one per scale) confined to the middorsal scale row and a pale lateral stripe situated on adjacent halves of dorsal scale rows 3 and 4. The ground color is brown. The venter is largely immaculate cream. The head pattern consists of a usually complete pale nuchal band, crossing the posterior portion of the parietals and the ultimate supralabial. The remainder of the head is brown, except for a pale spot on the snout and pale pre- and postocular spots. Ventrals and subcaudals range from 136 to 153 and 43 to 52, respectively. *Tantilla jani* may be distinguished from all congeners by possession of a pale middorsal stripe or series of pale spots confined to the middorsal row, a pale lateral stripe on adjacent halves of rows 3 and 4, a usually complete pale nuchal collar, a brown ground color, more or less unicolor paraventral scale row, 136-155 ventrals, and 43-52 subcaudals.

• DESCRIPTIONS. A summary description is in Smith (1942). More complete descriptions are in Wilson and Meyer (1971) and Wilson (1982).

• ILLUSTRATIONS. Pen-and-ink drawings of lateral, dorsal, and ventral views of the head and anterior body, as well as the dorsal color pattern are in Wilson and Meyer (1971).

• DISTRIBUTION. *Tantilla jani* occurs at low and moderate elevations (ca. 305-960 m) of the Pacific versant from eastern Oaxaca, México, to south-central Guatemala.

• FOSSIL RECORD. None.

• PERTINENT LITERATURE. The literature on this species deals with descriptions, distribution, and relationships (Smith, 1942; Smith and Burger, 1950; Smith and Smith, 1951; Smith and Williams, 1966; Wilson and Meyer, 1971; Savitzky and Smith, 1971; Wilson, 1970, 1974, 1982, 1983, 1984; Wilson, McCranie, and Porras, 1977).

• ETYMOLOGY. The name *jani* is a patronym in honor of Georges Jan, eminent 19th-century Italian herpetologist.

LITERATURE CITED

- Beltrán, Enrique. 1953. Vida silvestre y recursos naturales a lo largo de la carretera panamericana. Inst. Mexicano de Recursos Naturales Renovables, México, D.F. viii + 228 p.
- Boulenger, George Albert. 1896. Catalogue of the snakes in the British Museum (Natural History). Vol. 3. London. xiv + 727 p.
- Günther, Albert C. L. G. 1885-1902 (1895). Reptilia and Batrachia, p. xx + 326. In F. D. Godman and O. Salvin (eds.), Biologia Centrali-Americana. Dulau and Co., London.
- Savitzky, Alan H., and Hobart M. Smith. 1971. A new snake from Mexico of the *taeniata* group of *Tantilla*. J. Herpetol. 5(3-4):167-171.
- Slevin, J. R. 1939. Notes on a collection of reptiles and amphibians from Guatemala. 1. Snakes. Proc. California Acad. Sci. (4)23:393-414.
- Smith, Hobart M. 1942. A résumé of Mexican snakes of the genus *Tantilla*. Zoologica 27(7):33-42.
- , and Leslie Burger. 1950. A new snake (*Tantilla*) from Mexico. Herpetologica 6:117-119.

—, and Philip W. Smith. 1951. A new snake (*Tantilla*) from the isthmus of Tehuantepec, Mexico. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington 64:97-100.

—, and Kenneth L. Williams. 1966. A new snake (*Tantilla*) from las Islas de la Bahía, Honduras. Southwest. Natur. 11(4): 483-487.

Wilson, Larry David. 1970. *Tantilla brevicauda*: An addition to the snake fauna of Guatemala, with comments on its relationships. Bull. S. California Acad. Sci. 69(2):118-120.

— 1974. *Tantilla taeniata* (Bocourt): An addition to the snake fauna of El Salvador. Ibid. 73(1):53-54.

— 1982. A review of the colubrid snakes of the genus *Tantilla* of Central America. Milwaukee Pub. Mus. Contrib. Biol. Geol. (52):1-77.

— 1983. A new species of *Tantilla* of the *taeniata* group from Chiapas, Mexico. J. Herpetol. 17(1):54-59.

— 1984. Additional notes on colubrid snakes of the genus *Tantilla* from tropical America. Herpetol. Rev. 15(1):8-10.

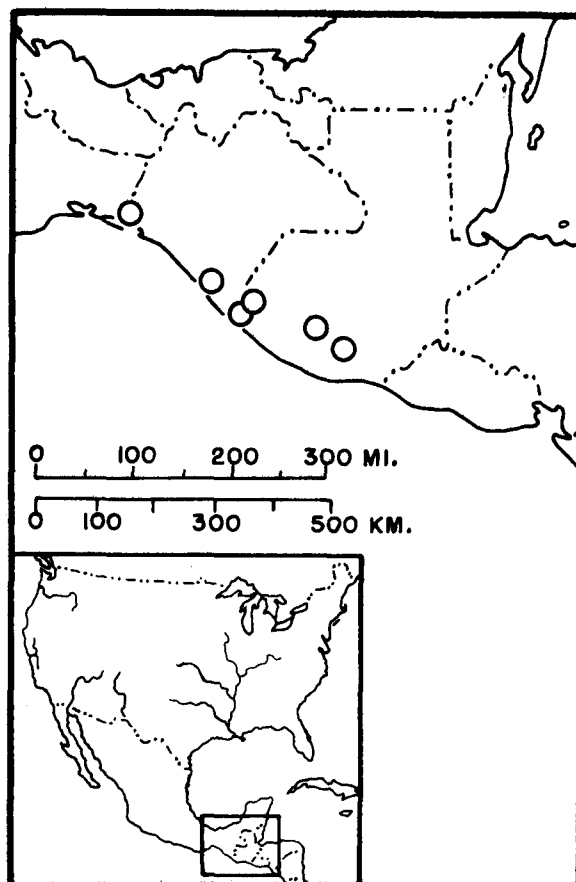
—, James R. McCranie, and Louis Porras. 1977. Taxonomic notes on *Tantilla* (Serpentes: Colubridae) from tropical America. Bull. S. California Acad. Sci. 76(1):49-56.

—, and John R. Meyer. 1971. A revision of the *taeniata* group of the colubrid snake genus *Tantilla*. Herpetologica 27(1): 11-40.

LARRY DAVID WILSON, MIAMI-DADE COMMUNITY COLLEGE, MIAMI, FLORIDA 33176.

Primary editor for this account, Stephen G. Tilley.

Published 30 January 1985 and Copyright 1985 by the SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES.



MAP. Open circles indicate known localities for the species. Type-locality too indefinite to plot.