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Taxonomic Notes on a Collection of Venezuelan Reptiles in the American Museum of Natural History

BY JÁNIS A. ROZE¹

INTRODUCTION

While visiting museums² in the United States in an effort to prepare a monographic study of the Venezuelan snake fauna, I had the privilege of examining an unidentified reptile collection in the American Museum of Natural History. It contained 72 specimens, representing 25 species and subspecies, two of which proved to be undescribed. Notes on specimens from the United States National Museum (U.S.N.M.), Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh (C.M.), and Museo de Biología, Universidad Central de Venezuela, Caracas, Venezuela (M.B.U.C.V.), are added.

At present the state of our knowledge concerning the systematic position of the amphibians and reptiles, or, indeed, the flora and fauna, of South America in general and Venezuela in particular leaves much to be desired. The situation here is similar to the one existing about 50 to 70 years ago in Europe or North America; thus every specimen collected contributes to our understanding of the various populations within a given area, or discloses the existence of taxa not pre-

¹ Escuela de Biología, Universidad Central de Venezuela.

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viously recognized. Not until rather exhaustive taxonomic studies have been completed can the zoogeographical and ecological problems be fully appreciated and worked out in detail.

Many more students engaged in research dealing with the herpetology of the neotropics are needed before we can expect to bring up to date our knowledge of the South American fauna, although this work may prove to be more fruitful than similar studies that remain to be carried out in other parts of the globe.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

It is my pleasant duty to express my appreciation to Mr. C. M. Bogert, who not only made the American Museum collection available for my studies, but also, through his kind advice and help, made my visit to the United States possible. Due thanks also go to Dr. R. G. Zweifel and other staff members of the Department of Amphibians and Reptiles at the American Museum of Natural History for their assistance during my stay there. For advice on several taxonomic problems I appreciate the cooperation of Dr. J. R. Bailey and Dr. Carl Gans.

COLLECTING STATIONS

Of the localities mentioned, the most interesting from the collector's standpoint seems to be the Curupao power plant in the state of Miranda, which lies at an elevation of approximately 1300 meters on the northern slopes of the Cordillera de la Costa, near La Guaira. At the plant there is a basin that collects water from several small artificial channels that traverse the region. At the point where the main channel enters the basin there is an iron net to prevent such miscellaneous debris as leaves or small pieces of wood from entering the basin. If a snake falls into one of the small channels, it is often forced to travel all the way down to the net, precisely where all the reptiles so listed were caught. In other words, by merely sitting at the iron net and waiting for the snakes to arrive, the collector could obtain many species not easily discovered by more orthodox methods. The region itself is a humid one, covered with rather dense forests, which, owing to the presence of clouds in some places, form a kind of cloud forest, similar to that of Rancho Grande in the state of Aragua, described in detail by Beebe.

Caracas and El Valle are in the same general area, roughly 1000 meters in elevation, both localities being very much altered as the result of the activities of man.

TAXONOMIC RESUME

SERPENTES

LEPTOTYPHLOPIDAE

Leptotyphlops macrolepis (Peters)

Stenostoma macrolepis PETERS, 1857, Monatsber. Akad. Wiss. Berlin, p. 402.

LOCALITY: *Distrito Federal*: El Valle, June, 1938, E. Mondolfi, A.M.N.H. No. 59406.

This is a species with no taxonomic complications thus far. It is relatively abundant in the northern part of Venezuela.

TYPHLOPIDAE

Helminthophis flavotermiatus (Peters)

Typhlops flavotermiatus PETERS, 1857, Monatsber. Akad. Wiss. Berlin, p. 402.

LOCALITY: *Distrito Federal*: El Valle, June, 1938, E. Mondolfi, A.M.N.H. No. 59407.

The specimen, representing one of the most characteristic Venezuelan species, has 24 rows of dorsal scales. Its distribution covers the whole northern part of Venezuela up to 1200 meters, reaching the extreme northeastern portions of Colombia.

BOIDAE

Epicrates cenchria maurus Gray

Epicrates maurus GRAY, 1849, Catalogue of the . . . snakes in the . . . British Museum, p. 96.

LOCALITY: *Distrito Federal*: El Valle, 1938, E. Mondolfi, A.M.N.H. No. 59413.

This is apparently a good subspecies. It differs from the nominate subspecies in lacking dorsal spots, although they are present in the juveniles, which thus are hardly distinguishable from those of *E. c. cenchris*. During ontogeny the spots and rings of this snake tend to become obsolete and eventually disappear in the larger adults, although dark spots or light ocelli may occasionally be visible even in the adult stage. Its distribution extends from Costa Rica through Colombia to Venezuela. It is rather abundant in northern Venezuela up to 1000 meters.

COLUBRIDAE

Sibon nebulatus (Linnaeus)

Coluber nebulatus LINNAEUS, 1758, Systema naturae, ed. 10, p. 222.

LOCALITY: *Distrito Federal*: El Valle, April 9, 1938, A.M.N.H.

Nos. 59387, 59408, 59409; June, 1938, A.M.N.H. No. 59408, E. Mondolfi.

James Peters' forthcoming revision of the Dipsadinae will undoubtedly establish the subspecific status of the Venezuelan populations of this species.

Urotheca lateristriga multilineata (Peters)

Dromicus multilineatus PETERS, 1863, Monatsber. Akad. Wiss. Berlin, p. 279.

LOCALITY: *Miranda*: Curupao power plant, F. Fernandez, A.M.N.H. Nos. 59445-59449.

This subspecies is restricted to the Cordillera de la Costa in northern Venezuela, and it could be considered almost endemic to that region. No zones of intergradation have been found between this and the nominate subspecies known from Colombia, but both forms are so similar that hardly any doubt exists concerning their relationships.

The generic name has been discussed (Dunn, 1957, p. 77), and it now seems probable that the genus *Rhadinaea* Cope is a strict synonym of *Urotheca* Bibron.

Leimadophis melanotus (Shaw)

Coluber melanotus SHAW, 1802, General zoölogy or systematic natural history, vol. 3, p. 534.

LOCALITIES: *Distrito Federal*: El Valle, April 9, 1938, E. Mondolfi, A.M.N.H. Nos. 59419-59421. *Miranda*: Curupao power plant, F. Fernandez, A.M.N.H. No. 59424. *Monagas*: Caripito, 50 meters, H. K. Hodson, A.M.N.H. Nos. 59491, 59492.

This species is one of the most easily recognizable forms of *Leimadophis*; its distribution covers all northern South America.

Leimadophis zweifeli, new species

Figure 1

HOLOTYPE: M.B.U.C.V. No. 95, a female collected by J. Racenis, on September 6, 1949.

TYPE LOCALITY: Rancho Grande in the state of Aragua, Venezuela, at an elevation of 1100 meters, in a cloud forest region.

PARATYPES: A.M.N.H. No. 59430, Curupao power plant, Miranda, Venezuela, collected by F. Fernandez; C.M. No. 7355, El Limón, Distrito Federal, Venezuela, January 19, 1929; C.M. No. 2278, Los Canales, Naiguatá, Miranda, Venezuela, July 23, 1939; M.B.U.C.V. No. 659, Rancho Grande, Aragua, Venezuela, 1100 meters, April 18, 1949, G. Marcuzzi; M.B.U.C.V. No. 96, September 11, 1949, J. Racenis;

M.B.U.C.V. No. 621, June 28, 1950, Schäfer; M.B.U.C.V. No. 3076, 1955, J. A. Roze; M.B.U.C.V. No. 3077, June 15, 1955, E. Foldats; M.B.U.C.V. No. 3078, 1955; M.B.U.C.V. No. 3079, February 10, 1951; M.B.U.C.V. No. 3080, March 21, 1954, E. Foldats; M.B.U.C.V. No. 3081, May 15, 1955, G. Medina, all from Rancho Grande; M.B.U.C.V. No. 505, Botanical Garden, Caracas, Venezuela, 940 meters, June 5, 1950, E. Foldats; M.B.U.C.V. No. 3082, El Estanque, Borburata, Carabobo, Venezuela, 675 meters, December 27, 1951, J. V. Scorza; M.B.U.C.V. No. 3083, El Junquito, Distrito Federal, Venezuela, 1800 meters, May 6, 1956, J. A. Roze.

DIAGNOSIS: Related to *Leimadophis reginae* from which it differs in lacking any longitudinal lateral black stripe on the posterior part of the body, and possessing a higher subcaudal count: 78-87 in contrast to 70 for the type specimen of Linnaeus' species.

DESCRIPTION OF HOLOTYPE: There are 25 maxillary teeth, but the last two larger and separated by a short interspace from the rest. The head scutellation may be described as follows: The rostral is broader than high, and there are two internasals and two prefrontals, the latter longer and broader than the first. The frontal is approximately as long as its distance from the snout. The paired parietals are a little longer than the frontal. The nasal plate is divided, with the nostril situated on the suture. The loreal is higher than long. There is one preocular, separated from the frontal, and one supraocular and two postoculars, the superior larger than the inferior, both very narrow. There are one plus two temporals, and eight (4, 5) supralabials, the sixth being the largest, 10 (5) infralabials, and two pairs of chin shields approximately of equal length. The dorsals are in 17-15 rows, the reduction taking place near the eightieth ventral, where the fourth row is dropped. There are 143 ventrals, a divided anal, and 82 subcaudals, comprising a total of 225.

COLORATION: The head is black, with light mottling, concentrated especially around the borders of the cephalic scales. The supralabials are white, except the superior border which is black. There are light spots on the parietals and temporals. The body is black on the dorsum, including the tail, with the base of each scale white, to produce a uniformly reticulated appearance. The ventral scales are white and heavily mottled with black, occasionally covering a whole ventral scale on the posterior two-thirds of the body. The anterior third of the body and the tail have very few black spots.

The total length of the holotype is 645 mm., with the tail (180 mm.) comprising 27.9 per cent of the total length.

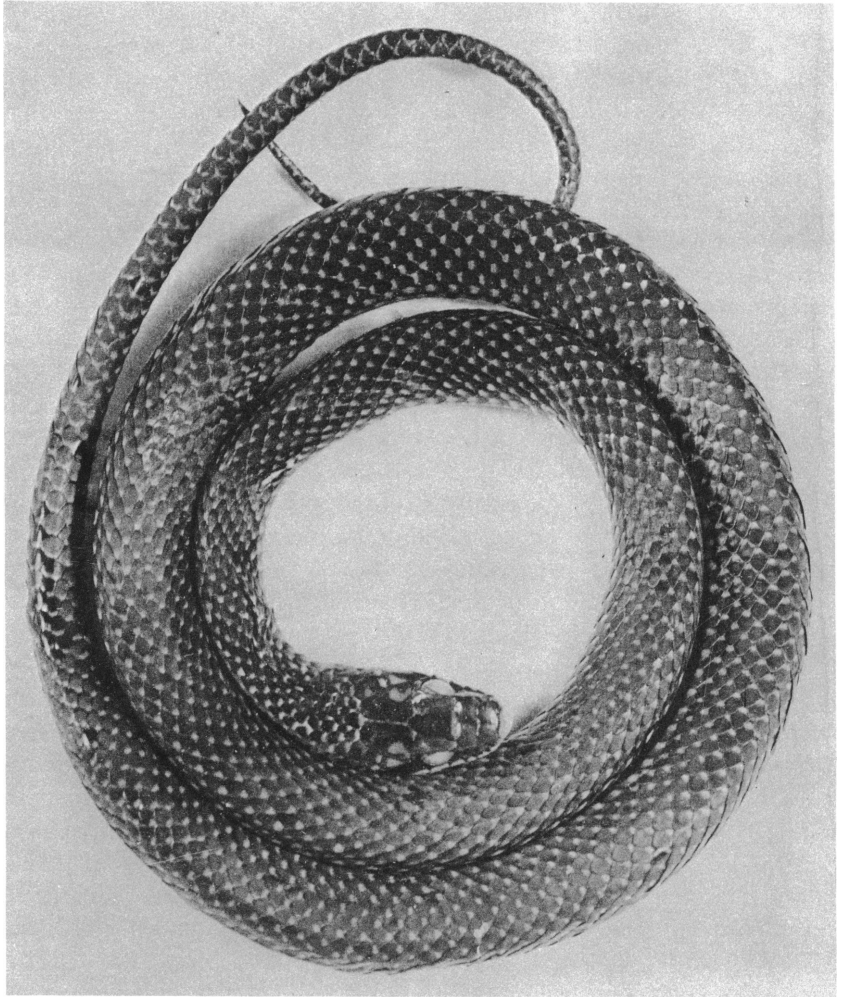


FIG. 1. Holotype of *Leimadophis zweifeli*, new species (M.B.U.C.V. No. 95), dorsal view.

DESCRIPTION OF PARATYPES: The cephalic squamation of the paratypes, as well as their general characteristics, is similar to that of the holotype. Variations noted include the following: The ventrals vary from 140 to 148, with a mean of 143.5; caudals 78 to 86, mean 81.5. All the paratypes have 17-15 dorsals; eight (4, 5) supralabials and nine or 10 (5) infralabials, and one plus two temporals.

In some specimens, the white spots may be obscured, and the pari-

etal spot reduced to the size of most spots on the dorsals.

NOTES: It is not impossible that this new form is one of the *formenkreis* *Leimadophis reginae*. Judging from the photographs of the type specimen of *L. reginae*, we suspect that this is the form occurring in Amazonia and British Guiana. The type has 137 ventrals, and the spots on the body are irregularly disposed, forming a pattern roughly described as consisting of dark transverse (reticulated) blotches, which disappear on the posterior portion of the body. Moreover, there are black lateral caudal lines, beginning shortly before the anus. An irregular light blotch is present on the parietals, passing downward to the last labials. Specimens in the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy (Nos. 48978, 48979), from Leticia, Colombia, correspond almost perfectly to the coloration of the Linnaean type.

Hoge (1952), when describing a new subspecies, *L. reginae maculicauda*, said nothing about the distribution or other characteristics of *L. reginae reginae*. It is evident that there are serious shortcomings in our knowledge of the whole *Leimadophis-Liophis-Lygophis* complex.

In collections, any specimen with a somewhat reticulated pattern and/or dark lateral caudal lines has been referred to *L. reginae*. Perhaps this confusion has resulted from Jan's plate (1866-1876) depicting a snake labeled *L. reginae*, although it definitely does not represent the Linnaean species.

Leimadophis zweifeli is rather abundant in the central part of the Cordillera de la Costa from 700 meters upward. The light spots are yellow or greenish yellow in life, and the snake is very gentle, never attempting to bite, even when first seized.

A remarkable feature of this new form is the limited variation of ventral and subcaudal counts. It is only eight for the 16 specimens examined. This species is dedicated to my friend Dr. Richard George Zweifel.

Xenodon severus (Linnaeus)

Coluber severus LINNAEUS, 1758, *Systema naturae*, ed. 10, p. 219.

LOCALITY: *Distrito Federal*: El Valle, February 9, 1938, E. Mondolfi, A.M.N.H. Nos. 59394-59400.

These seven specimens, which come from the same locality, provide a good idea of the variation in the squamation in a local population of this species. The ventrals vary from 126 to 141, with a mean of 133; subcaudals from 37 to 41, mean 39.5; all have 21-19-17 dorsal rows, and the maxillary dentition varies from 10+2 to 13+2.

The genus *Xenodon* is one of several South American genera in

need of detailed study; no serious attempt has been made to establish the relationships and evolutionary trends of the different species, although it is probable that several of the recognized species will prove to be subspecifically related; others will prove to be composite, including the present one.

Philodryas viridissimus (Linnaeus)

Coluber viridissimus LINNAEUS, 1758, *Systema naturae*, ed. 10, p. 226.

LOCALITY: *Monagas*: Caripito, 50 meters, H. K. Hodson, A.M.N.H. No. 59486.

This species is a British Guiana element, unlikely to be found in Venezuela other than in the extreme east in Monagas and perhaps in Delta Amacuro. This individual from Caripito possesses 210 ventrals and 124 subcaudals.

Philodryas is also badly in need of revision.

Erythrolamprus aesculapii (Linnaeus)

Coluber aesculapii LINNAEUS, 1758, *Systema naturae*, ed. 10, p. 220.

LOCALITY: *Distrito Federal*: El Valle, June, 1938, E. Mondolfi, A.M.N.H. No. 59405.

The present specimen is a puzzling one, and we take refuge in the composite name of *E. aesculapii*. The specimen has 14+5 single bands, 194 ventrals, and 59 subcaudals. It fits perfectly Jan's figure (1866-1876, pl. 11, fig. 2) of *E. monozona*, with dark bands evident, especially on the posterior part of the body, and light spots on the ventrals and the contiguous rows of dorsals. According to Dr. J. R. Bailey (*in litt.*) who is revising the *E. aesculapii* complex, the species known from northern Venezuela is *E. bizona* which, as does *E. aesculapii* (*sensu stricto*) known from the Guianas and Amazonia, has double black bands. The only single-banded species that might occur in the extreme western portion of Venezuela is *E. mimus micrurus*, which has fewer black bands on the body.

Clelia cloelia cloelia (Daudin)

Coluber cloelia DAUDIN, 1803, *Histoire naturelle*, . . . reptiles, vol. 6, p. 330.

LOCALITIES: *Distrito Federal*: El Valle, June, 1938, E. Mondolfi, A.M.N.H. No. 59389. *Miranda*: Curupao power plant, F. Fernandez, A.M.N.H. No. 59429.

A female (A.M.N.H. No. 59386) seems to be an aberrant specimen, with 21-22-19-17 dorsal rows, 203 ventrals, eight (3, 4, 5) supralabials, and two plus three temporals.

Oxyrhopus petola petola (Linnaeus)

Coluber petola LINNAEUS, 1758, *Systema naturae*, ed. 10, p. 225.

LOCALITIES: *Distrito Federal*: El Valle, February 9, 1938, E. Mondolfi, A.M.N.H. No. 59411; 1938, A.M.N.H. No. 59418; April 9, 1938, A.M.N.H. No. 59412. *Miranda*: Curupao power plant, F. Fernandez, A.M.N.H. Nos. 59455–59457.

This species is widespread in Venezuela.

Pseudoboa newwiedii newwiedii (Duméril, Bibron, and Duméril)

Scytale newwiedii DUMÉRIL, BIBRON, AND DUMÉRIL, 1854, *Erpétologie générale*, vol. 7, p. 1001.

LOCALITY: *Distrito Federal*: El Valle, April 20, 1938, E. Mondolfi, A.M.N.H. Nos. 59414, 59415.

Dryadophis boddaertii (Sentzen)

Coluber boddaertii SENTZEN, 1796, *Zool. Arch.*, vol. 2, p. 59.

LOCALITIES: *Distrito Federal*: Caracas, November 12, 1939, W. H. Phelps, A.M.N.H. No. 59487; El Valle, February 9, 1938, E. Mondolfi, A.M.N.H. No. 59401. *Miranda*: Curupao power plant, F. Fernandez, A.M.N.H. Nos. 59432–59434.

In spite of Stuart's excellent revision of *Dryadophis* (1941), the subspecific status of the Venezuelan form is not known. Stuart concludes that virtually all the Venezuelan specimens of *D. boddaertii* represent intergrades between *D. b. boddaertii* and *D. b. ruthveni*, but it is hardly possible, as an intergradation zone of about 1700 kilometers is highly improbable. Moreover, the Venezuelan specimens offer rather constant characteristics, which are not likely to be found in a zone of intergradation. A more detailed study might show that Venezuelan populations represent a good subspecies, and a name for it is already available: *Coluber fuscus* Hallowell, 1845.

Dendrophidion percarinatus (Cope)

Drymobius percarinatus COPE, 1893, *Proc. Amer. Phil. Soc.*, vol. 31, p. 344.

LOCALITY: *Miranda*: Curupao power plant, F. Fernandez, A.M.N.H. Nos. 59435–59444, 59454.

The use of this name instead of *D. dendrophis* is in accordance with Dunn's (1944) views; he may be right, as neither the dorsals (17) nor the subcaudal counts of Venezuelan specimens fit those given by Schlegel for his *D. dendrophis* (dorsals, 15; subcaudals, 196). Nevertheless it is almost certain that *D. percarinatus* is a composite species, to be split into at least three subspecies.

Oxybelis aeneus aeneus (Wagler)

Dryinus aeneus WAGLER, 1824, in Spix, *Serpentum Brasiliensium*, p. 12.

LOCALITIES: *Miranda*: Curupao power plant, F. Fernandez, A.M.N.H. No. 59431. *Sucre*: Yacua Estate, Paria Peninsula, O. Weber, Jr., A.M.N.H. No. 77120.

A very widespread South American subspecies, which up to now has escaped division into subdivisions (*vide* Bogert and Oliver, 1945).

Drymarchon corais corais (Boie)

Coluber corais BOIE, 1827, *Isis*, vol. 20, p. 537.

LOCALITY: *Sucre*: Yacua Estate, Paria Peninsula, 1937, O. Weber, Jr., A.M.N.H. No. 77118.

Pseustes poecilonotus polylepis (Peters)

Ahaetulla polylepis PETERS, 1867, *Monatsber. Akad. Wiss. Berlin*, p. 709.

LOCALITY: *Territorio Federal Amazonas*: Cerro de la Neblina (?), 1953-1954, J. J. Wurdock, A.M.N.H. No. 74593.

Chironius carinatus (Linnaeus)

Coluber carinatus LINNAEUS, 1758, *Systema naturae*, ed. 10, p. 323.

LOCALITIES: *Aragua*: El Limón, near La Victoria, 500 meters, W. H. Phelps, A.M.N.H. No. 61030. *Sucre*: Yacua Estate, Paria Peninsula, O. Weber, Jr., A.M.N.H. No. 77119.

All specimens have 12-10-10 dorsals, 159-161 ventrals, and 170-173 subcaudals. They probably represent the Venezuelan form of the composite *C. carinatus*.

Chironius monticola Roze

Chironius monticola ROZE, 1952, *Acta Biol. Venezuelica*, vol. 1, no. 5, p. 100.

LOCALITY: *Aragua*: El Limón, near La Victoria, 500 meters, November 2-5, 1937, W. H. Phelps, A.M.N.H. No. 61031.

This is an easily recognizable form with black lines on the lateral posterior portion of the tail.

Stenorhina degenhardti ocellata Jan

Stenorhina degenhardtii var. *ocellata* JAN, 1876, *Iconographie général ophidiens*, livr. 48, p. 9, pl. 2, fig. 5.

LOCALITY: *Distrito Federal*: Caracas, A.M.N.H. No. 59488.

The Venezuelan specimens differ from the nominate form in having

lower ventral counts, fewer temporals, and different coloration.

The name employed above seems to be available for the Venezuelan subspecies. Jan's figure represents a juvenile, the type, from Puerto Cabello, Carabobo, Venezuela (type locality), in the Hamburg Museum, where it may still be extant. Noteworthy is the fact that Jan mentioned (presumably) the same specimen in 1862, but simply as *S. degenhardtii*, and employed the same terminology in 1863. Not until 1876 did it appear under the name *ocellata*.

The present specimens have 136-151 ventrals, 31-40 subcaudals, seven (3, 4) supralabials, and eight or nine infralabials, 17-17 dorsals, and 16 maxillary teeth.

In the juveniles the pattern consists of dark brown cross bars, three to four scales wide on the dorsum, as represented by Jan's figure; the adults are uniformly grayish.

CROTALIDAE

Bothrops atrox atrox (Linnaeus)

Coluber atrox LINNAEUS, 1758, *Systema naturae*, ed. 10, p. 222.

LOCALITY: *Miranda*: Curupao power plant, F. Fernandez, A.M.N.H. No. 59450.

Bothrops lansbergii venezuelensis, new subspecies

HOLOTYPE: A.M.N.H. No. 59489, a male, collected by Mrs. H. K. Hodson.

TYPE LOCALITY: Caripito, Monagas, Venezuela, 50 meters.

PARATYPES: A.M.N.H. No. 59490, with the same data as the holotype; U.S.N.M. No. 129577, also from Caripito; M.B.U.C.V. No. 3100, "Venezuela."

DIAGNOSIS: This subspecies differs from the nominate subspecies, known from Colombia and Central America, in having a lower ventral count, 142-144, as compared to 147-159 for *B. l. lansbergii*, and in having the dark dorsal blotches much wider than the light interspaces. Moreover, *venezuelensis* has a maximum of 25 dorsal rows; there are from 27 to 32 subcaudals; normally there are nine (exceptionally eight or 10) supralabials, 10 or 11 infralabials, and 20 to 23 dark dorsal blotches.

DESCRIPTION OF HOLOTYPE: The head squamation is similar to that of the nominate subspecies. The rostral is twice as high as wide at the base; the canthus rostralis is pronounced, formed by two internasals, the canthals, part of the posterior nasal and preocular, passing as a

supraocular ridge over the eye. The snout is raised sharply upward. The supracephalic scales are mostly keeled. There are approximately five rows of scales between the supraoculars. The nasal plate is divided. The fossa lacrimal is separated from the supralabials and from the eye by one row of scales. There are three preoculars, the upper largest, three postoculars, the superior largest, and several small suboculars, all separated from the supralabials by one row of scales, larger than the suboculars. There are eight supralabials and 10 infralabials, the first three in contact with the first pair of chin shields, of which there are three pairs.

The dorsal scales are keeled and arranged in 25-23-19 rows, the first row being larger than the others. There are 142 ventrals, the anal is entire, and there are 32 subcaudals.

COLORATION: The head is dirty brownish gray, with the darker parietal region extending as a triangle between the supraoculars. There is a lighter pre-postocular band, which runs from the snout to the end of the head, passing over to the lateral part of the body as a lighter general coloration. Laterally, from the canthus rostralis to infralabials, the scales are very dark, almost black.

Dark vertebral blotches with the centers somewhat lighter cover the dorsum. These blotches occupy about six dorsal scales. The vertebral row has a light line running along the body. Laterally, there are one or two rows of dark spots. The ventrals are light, with dirty grayish small spots. On the dorsum the dark blotches are wider (four to five scales wide) than the light interspaces (two to two and one-half scales wide). There are 23 dorsal dark blotches, not including several that are indistinct, on the tail.

The total length of the holotype is 356 mm., with the tail (43 mm.) comprising 12.0 per cent of the over-all length.

DESCRIPTION OF PARATYPES: The head squamation, as well as other characteristics, is similar to that of the holotype. Scale counts for the three specimens may be tabulated as follows:

	A.M.N.H. No. 59490	U.S.N.M. No. 129577	M.B.U.C.V. No. 3100
Ventrals	144	143	143
Subcaudals	27	29	28
Supralabials	9	9, 10	10, 11
Infralabials	10 (3)	11 (3)	10 (3), 11 (3)
Number of black dorsal blotches	20	?	23
Width of the black blotches	4-5 scales	3-3½ scales	4-4½ scales
Width of the light interspaces	2-3 scales	2-2½ scales	2-2½ scales

Owing possibly to the preservative, the dark dorsal blotches of some specimens are obsolete or even absent on the tail.

REMARKS: Apparently this subspecies occupies the semi-arid regions of northern Venezuela, from Monagas state to Lake Maracaibo. Intergradation with the nominate subspecies takes place in Sierra de Perijá on the Colombian-Venezuelan border, as represented by a specimen (U.S.N.M. No. 61225) that has 151 ventrals and 30 subcaudals, with the dark blotches as wide as or a little wider than the light interspaces. The Sierra de Perijá is already known as a zone where intergrades occur in other reptiles.

SAURIA
TEIIDAE

Cnemidophorus lemniscatus lemniscatus (Linnaeus)

Lacerta lemniscatus LINNAEUS, 1758, Systema naturae, ed. 10, p. 209.

LOCALITY: *Monagas*: Caripito, 50 meters, H. K. Hodson, A.M.N.H. Nos. 57353-57356.

Ameiva ameiva ameiva (Linnaeus)

Lacerta ameiva LINNAEUS, 1758, Systema naturae, ed. 10, p. 202.

LOCALITY: *Monagas*: Caripito, 50 meters, H. K. Hodson, A.M.N.H. Nos. 57351-57352.

Unfortunately, the subspecific status of the different Venezuelan populations of *Ameiva ameiva* is not so clear as it should be. There are many more names proposed than there are recognizable forms, and, on occasions, various subspecific names have been employed for one and the same population. Pending detailed studies we prefer to recognize two forms, *Ameiva ameiva ameiva*, the eastern one, and *A. a. praesignis*, the western one.

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