

Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

WILSON, LARRY DAVID. 1987. *Tantilla vermiformis*.*Tantilla vermiformis* (Hallowell)

Lionina vermiformis Hallowell, 1861:484. Type-locality, "Nicaragua." Lectoholotype, National Museum of Natural History (USNM) 32338, adult (?) female, collected by Wright on North Pacific Exploring Expedition; designated as such by Van Devender and Cole (1977) (examined by author).

Tantilla vermiformis: Cope, 1861:74.

Homalocranium vermiformis: Günther, 1895:155.

Homalocranium vermiforme: Boulenger, 1896:225.

• CONTENT. No subspecies are recognized.

• DEFINITION AND DIAGNOSIS. "A species of *Tantilla* with a pink to brown dorsum with a thin distinct dark middorsal stripe confined to the uniddorsal scale row. The head is slightly darker than the dorsum and there is a tan to pale brown marking on the parietals. Ventrals and subcaudals number 115 to 129 and 19 to

27, respectively" (Wilson, 1982). *Tantilla vermiformis* may be distinguished from all congeners by having a pink to brown dorsum traversed by a dark middorsal stripe confined to the middorsal row, a head pattern of a pale parietal blotch, 2 postoculars, 7 supralabials, 115 to 129 ventrals, and 19 to 27 subcaudals.

• DESCRIPTIONS. The most complete descriptions are in Van Devender and Cole (1977) and Wilson (1982). Descriptions of geographically-limited material are in Wilson and Villa (1973) and Wilson (1984).

• ILLUSTRATIONS. Van Devender and Cole (1977) provided a black-and-white photograph of the dorsum, pen-and-ink drawings of dorsal, lateral, and ventral views of the head and anterior body, dorsal and ventral views of the skull, the lingual aspect of the mandible, and sulcate and absulcate views of the hemipenis, as well as scanning electron micrographs of dorsal, lateral, ventral, anterior, and posterior views of a midbody vertebra and photograph of the karyotype. Wilson (1982) published black-and-white photographs of lateral and dorsal views of the head and the anterior body of this snake.

• DISTRIBUTION. *Tantilla vermiformis* occurs at "low elevations of the Pacific versant from northwestern Nicaragua to northwestern Costa Rica" (Wilson, 1982).

• FOSSIL RECORD. None.

• PERTINENT LITERATURE. Most of the literature on this species deals with taxonomy, distribution, and relationships and is summarized in Van Devender and Cole (1977) and Wilson (1982, 1984).

• ETYMOLOGY. The name *vermiformis* is derived from the Latin *vermis*, meaning "a worm," and *forma* meaning "shape," in reference to the wormlike habitus of this species.

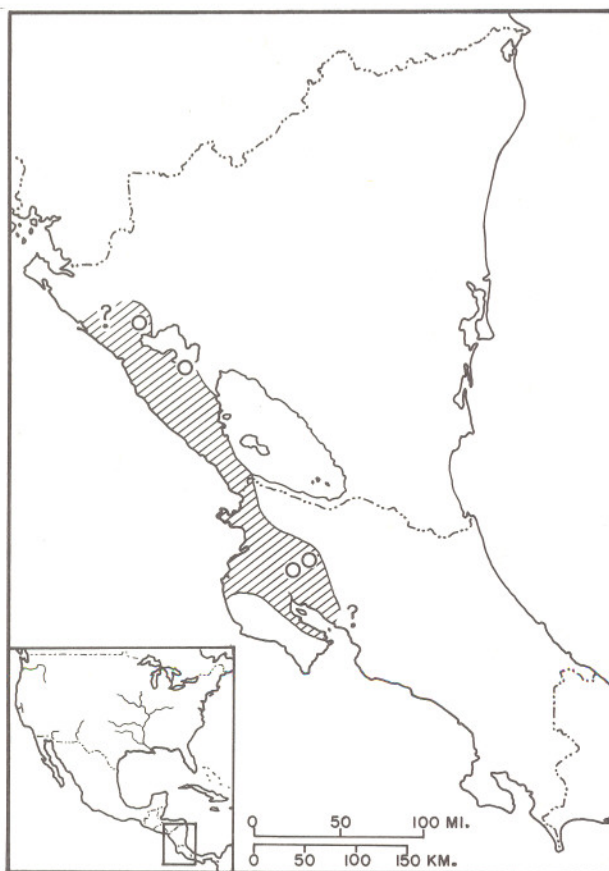
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MAP 1. Known distribution of *Tantilla vermiformis*; type-locality too indefinite to plot.