

Catalogue of American Amphibians and
Reptiles 928

Sánchez-Martínez, P. M., D. P. F. de França,
and V. C. Trevine. 2022. *Dipsas catesbyi*.

***Dipsas catesbyi* (Sentzen)
Catesby's Snail-eater**

Coluber Catesbeji Sentzen 1796:66 (error ty-
pographical). Type locality: "America."
Restricted to Suriname and Cayenne (=
French Guiana) by Schlegel (1837b:279).
Two syntypes, number and present loca-
tion unknown (Peters 1960a:56), collec-
tor unknown.

Dipsas Catesbaei: Boie 1827:550.

Dipsas catesbyi: Schlegel 1837a:162,
1837b:279, and 1837c:Plate 11, Figures
21–23.

Stremmatognathus Catesbyi: Duméril,
Bibron, and Duméril 1854:522.

Leptognathus catesbyi: Günther 1858:180.

Leptognathus Catesbyi: Boulenger 1886:436.

Leptognathus catesbyi: Boulenger 1896:449.

Cochliophagus Catesbyi: Berg 1901:291.

Sibynomorphus catesbeji: Barbour and Noble

1920:620.

Sibynomorphus catesbyi: Amaral 1926:9.

Sibynomorphus catesbyei: Amaral 1930:196.
Lapsus.

Petalognathus catesbyi: Briseño Rossi
1934a:[pages unknown, see **Literature
Cited**], and 1934b: 100. Misidentification.
See **Nomenclatural History**.

Sybynomorphus castebytií: Schouten 1937:
1222. *Lapsus*.

Dipsas catesbyi: Beebe 1946:24.

Sibynomorphus macedoi Prado and Hoge
1947a:180. Type locality: "Pucallpa, Lo-
reto" [Peru]. Holotype: Museo de His-
toria Natural Javier Prado (Lima, Peru)
UNMSM 24, specimen not found. Adult
male collected in February 1947, collec-
tor unknown. Synonymized by Peters
(1960a:57).

Dipsas catesbyei Kempff Mercado 1975:44.
Lapsus.

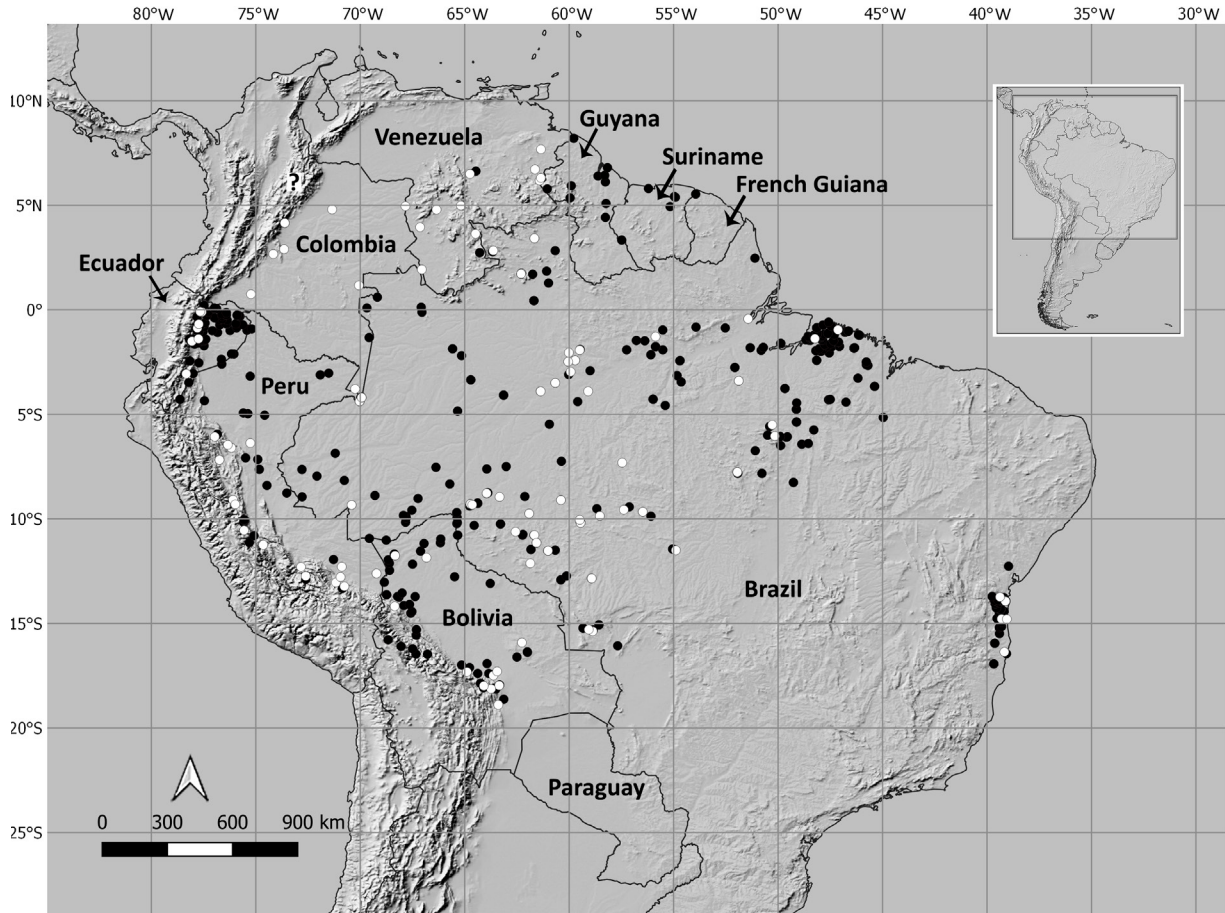
Dipsas catesby Böckeler 1988:47. *Lapsus*.

Dipsas colesbyi Areste and Cebrián 2003:118.
Lapsus.

Dipsas catesbeji Wallach, Williams, and
Boundy 2014:231. See **Nomenclatural
History**.



FIGURE 1. Adult *Dipsas catesbyi*. Photograph by Luis Storti.



MAP. Distribution of *Dipsas catesbyi*. The type locality is imprecise and can not be plotted. The white dots represent verified records and the black dots represent literature records. The ? symbol in the Colombian Andes represents a doubtful locality (see **Comments**).

CONTENT. No subspecies are recognized.

DESCRIPTION. The following description is based on Harvey and Embert (2009), Lima and Prudente (2009), and Peters (1960a). *Dipsas catesbyi* is a medium-sized, thin, and elongated species of snake with a coloration pattern of oval bands, and maximum body length of 598 mm (males) and 585 mm (females). The rostral scale is barely visible from above; the internasals are smaller than the prefrontals; the prefrontals do not contact the orbit; the frontal is pentagonal; the nasal is usually undivided; the loreal is typically square or higher than wide, and it does not contact the orbit; and the temporals do not contact the orbit. This species has two preocular scales; two postoculars; eight, nine, or ten supralabials with the fourth and fifth, or

fourth, fifth, and sixth in contact with the orbit; nine to ten infralabials, with the first pair of infralabials is in contact behind the mental; and four pairs of square chin shields. The cloacal scale is undivided; ventral scales are 164–220 in males and 167–200 in females; and the subcaudal scales are 70–120 in males and 60–102 in females. The smooth dorsal scales are distributed in 13 rows at mid-body, and the vertebral scale row is moderate to broadly enlarged. *Dipsas catesbyi* has 15–18 maxillary teeth, 8–11 palatine teeth, and 14–18 pterygoid teeth. The dorsum of the head is dark brown to black, with a white stripe across the snout, a black bar below the eyes, and a white collar on the occipitals and nape of the neck extending onto the last supralabials. The gular region is white with a few black spots. The dorsal body is brown to reddish-brown,



FIGURE 2. Dorsal (A) and ventral (B) views of an adult *Dipsas catesbyi* from Parque Estadual Chandless, Manoel Ubano municipality, Acre, Brazil. Photographs by Daniella França.

with 10–40 dark brown to black oval and round blotches, and unicolor interspaces. The blotches are usually bordered with white, some blotches are fused along the midline of the body but are not complete ventrally; the first blotch is almost twice as long as all other blotches. The venter is cream to white, usually with rectangular paired spots intercalated with the lateral spots of the body (Figure 1). On young individuals, the body blotches are not bordered with white and can be fused along the midline of the body; young are occasionally without the dark ventral blotches.

The hemipenis is slightly bilobed and strongly capitate, the capitular sulcus is prominent in both faces. The sulcus spermaticus is bifurcated at the base of the capitulum, and its branches are centrolineal, ending on the distal apex of the lobes. The capitulum is ornamented with calyces and papillae, and it occupies a more prominent area on the sulcate face than on the asulcate, where the capitulum is arched distally. There are spines of different forms and sizes on both faces of the hemipenial body. The smaller spines are irregularly distributed on both faces of the body, while the medium-sized spines are adjacent to the capitulum and, on the asulcate face, they form diagonal rows. There are 2–3 prominent spines, two of which are asymmetric basal hooks at the base of the hemipenial

body. On the lateral side of the base, there is a nude and deep pocket that usually curves slightly medially and extends for about one-third of the length of the everted organ.

DIAGNOSIS. *Dipsas catesbyi* can be recognized by the coloration pattern with a ground color light brown to reddish-brown, with dark brown to black rounded lateral blotches, each delimited by a white border, usually without contact on the vertebral line, but sometimes in contact at the midline (blotches not saddle-shaped at midline as seen in *Dipsas pavonina*). Additionally, the following features also distinguish the species from its congeners: the top of the head is covered by a black cap that extends below the eye as a subocular bar, while a white stripe crosses the snout, and a whitish area covers the occipitals, posterior labials, and temporals. Dorsal scales in 13 rows, 160–220 ventrals and 60–120 subcaudals, two preoculars, and the loreal does not contact the orbit.

PHYLOGENETIC RELATIONSHIPS. Using primarily external morphology, Schlegel (1837a, 1837b, 1843) included many arboreal snakes in the genus *Dipsas*, including *Coluber catesbeji* Sentzen 1796 (Peters 1960a). Through time, the configuration of this group and its nomenclature changed considerably



FIGURE 3. Dorsal (A) and ventral (B) views of the defensive behavior of a subadult *Dipsas catesbyi*. Photographs by Mauricio Forlani.

(e.g., Boulenger 1896; Cadle 1984; Cope 1860; Dessauer et al. 1987; Dowling and Duellman 1978; Duméril 1853; Ferrarezzi 1994; Günther 1858, 1971; Jenner 1981; Peters 1960a). However, the close relationships between species within *Dipsas*, *Sibon*, and *Sibynomorphus* has always been accepted, in both historical and modern classifications. Possible paraphyly between *Dipsas* and *Sibynomorphus* was noted by Cadle (2007), Fernandes (1995), and Lima and Prudente (2009), and more recently, the synonymization of these two genera was presented by Arteaga et al. (2018). Currently, the genus *Dipsas* is included in the tribe Dipsadini, together with *Plesiodipsas*, *Sibon*, *Sibynomorphus*, and *Tropidodipsas* (Arteaga et al. 2018; Grazziotin et al. 2012; Harvey et al. 2009; Zaher 1999; Zaher et al. 2009, 2014).

The *catesbyi* group was proposed by Peters (1960a) to include the species *Dipsas catesbyi*, *Dipsas copei*, *Dipsas pavonina*, and *Dipsas vermiculata*; it was based exclusively on morphological characters. The composition of this group was maintained by Harvey (2008) with the exclusion of *Dipsas vermiculata*. Morphological characters of the Harderian gland were used by Lima and Prudente (2009) to question the monophyly of the *catesbyi* group; they based their conclusion

on the morphological similarities of *Dipsas catesbyi* with *Sibynomorphus mikanii*, *Sibynomorphus neuwiedi*, and *Sibynomorphus ventrimaculatus*, and its differences with other species of *Dipsas*. The only available phylogenetic analysis of morphological data of Dipsadini was presented by Fernandes (1995); in that analysis *Dipsas catesbyi* was related to a clade with *Dipsas pavonina*, which was more closely related to *Sibynomorphus neuwiedi* and *Sibynomorphus ventrimaculatus* than to the other species of *Dipsas* included in the analysis.

Molecular analyses produced several different phylogenetic hypotheses, based in part on the different taxa included in each analysis (Arteaga et al. 2018; Dessauer et al. 1987; Figueroa et al. 2016; Grazziotin et al. 2012; Pyron et al. 2013; Sheehy 2012; Sheehy et al. 2014; Vidal et al. 2000; Zaher et al. 2014). In those studies, *Dipsas catesbyi* was most closely related to *Dipsas variegata* (Vidal et al. 2000), to *Dipsas pavonina* (Figueroa et al. 2016), or to the clade *Dipsas neivai* + *Dipsas variegata* (Pyron et al. 2013). In another study, *Dipsas catesbyi* was paraphyletic with respect to *Dipsas pavonina*, and together formed the sister clade to *Dipsas peruana* (Sheehy 2012). Several other molecular studies linked *Dip-*

sas catesbyi to different species of the genus *Sibynomorphus*. *Dipsas catesbyi* was hypothesized to be most closely related to *Sibynomorphus turgidus* (Dessauer et al. 1987), to *Sibynomorphus ventrimaculatus* (Grazziotin et al. 2012), to the clades formed by *Sibynomorphus turgidus* and *Sibynomorphus mikanii* (Zaher et al. 2014), and to the clade formed by *Sibynomorphus ventrimaculatus* and *Sibynomorphus neuwiedi* (Arteaga et al. 2018).

CONSERVATION CONCERN. Least concern (Acosta-Galvis et al. 2018; Gagliardi-Urutia et al. 2015; Rojas-Runjaic and Señaris 2018). Considering its wide distribution and the lack of direct threats that can be impacting it, *Dipsas catesbyi* was listed as Least Concern (LC) on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species by Kornacker et al. (2010) and Schargel et al. (2019).

PUBLISHED DESCRIPTIONS. Complete descriptions of *Dipsas catesbyi* and its variation were provided by Lima and Prudente (2009) and Peters (1956, 1960a). A taxonomic revision of the species was presented by Peters (1960a) and a revised diagnosis for the species, incorporating new characters related to the hemipenes and Harderian glands, was published by Lima and Prudente (2009). Additional descriptions of morphological variation were published by Abuys (2003), Beebe (1946), Bernarde et al. (2011), Boulenger (1896), Duellman (1978), Gasc and Rodrigues (1980), Harvey and Embert (2009), Lancini V. (1979, 1986), Lancini and Kornacker (1989), Lehr (2001), Pérez-Santos and Moreno (1988), Peters (1956), and Starace (1998).

ILLUSTRATIONS. **Color photographs** were published by Abuys (2003, 2015), Acosta-Galvis et al. (2018), Argôlo (2004), Arteaga et al. (2018), Bartlett and Bartlett (2003), Bernarde (2012, 2014), Bernarde et al. (2011, 2012), Betancourt et al. (2018), Campbell



FIGURE 4. Head triangulation in *Dipsas catesbyi* (USNM 316592), collected July 1977 in the vicinity of Huampani, Amazonas, Peru. The dorsal pattern of this specimen is an example of the variation in pattern observed in this species. Photograph by Roy McDiarmid.

and Lamar (1989, 1993, 2004), Chaparro et al. (2016), Claessen 2003; Coborn (1991, 1994), Collet (2019), Ebinuma (2018), Estévez (2008), Farias 2016; Freed (2003), Freitas (2003, 2015), Freitas et al. (2020), Gagliardi-Urutia (2010), Gagliardi-Urutia et al. (2016), Henkel and Schmidt (2007, 2010), Lehr (2002), Lima and Prudente (2009), López et al. 2010), López-Rojas (2009), Lynch et al. (2019), Marciano et al. (2015), Maschio (2008), Mattison (1999, 2006), May et al. (2006), Maynard et al. (2017), Medina-Rangel et al. (2018), Miranda et al. (2014), Moraes and dos Anjos Oliveira (2018), Morato et al. (2014), Neira (2016), Noboa (2017), Ortega-Andrade (2010), Pedroso-Santos et al. (2019), Preißler (2004), Ramírez-Villalba et al. (2015), Ruiz-Valderrama et al. (2019), Russell (2001), Santos-Costa et al. (2015), Snyder (2019), Starace (1997, 1998, 2013), Valencia et al. (2016), Whitworth and Beirne (2011), Whitworth and Ortega (2014), and Whitworth et al. (2016). **Black-and-white photographs** were presented by Cunha and Nascimento (1978), Duellman (1978) and Peters (1960a). **Color illustrations** were provided by Areste and Cebrián (2003), Guichenot (1855), Pearson and Beletsky (2001,

2002, 2005), The Encyclopedia of Animals (2004), and The Encyclopedia of Reptiles Amphibians & Invertebrates (2006a, 2006b). **Black-and-white illustrations** of some parts of the body were provided by Brongersma (1957) [lungs, viscera], Chippaux (1986) [head], Cole et al. (2013) [mental groove], Guichenot (1855) [head], Harnack (1953) [dorsal pattern], Jan and Sordelli (1870, 1961, 2012) [body], Lancini and Kornacker (1989) [head], Lima and Prudente (2009) [hemipenis, cephalic muscle and glands, and color pattern of the head], Pérez-Santos and Moreno (1988) [head], Peters (1956) [ventral scales], Savage and McDiarmid (2018) [body; authors' updated taxon designation as *Dipsas pavonina* in error], Schlegel (1837c) [dorsal, ventral, lateral views of head], and Smith and Mackay (1990) [tongue].

DISTRIBUTION. *Dipsas catesbyi* is widely distributed in South America. This species is recorded from Bolivia (in the departments of Beni, Cochabamba, La Paz, Pando and Santa Cruz), Brazil (in the states of Acre, Amazonas, Amapá, Bahia, Maranhão, Mato Grosso, Pará, Rondônia, Roraima, and Tocantins), Colombia (in the departments of Amazonas, Caquetá, Guaviare, Meta, Putumayo, and Vaupés), Ecuador (in the provinces of Morona-Santiago, Napo, Pastaza and Zamora-Chinchipe), French Guiana (in both Arrondissement Saint-Laurent-du-Maroni and Cayenne), Guyana (in the regions of Barima-Waini, Cuyuni-Mazaruni, Demerara-Mahaica, East Berbice-Corentyne, Essequibo Islands-West Demerara, and Upper Demerara-Berbice), Peru (in the departments of Amazonas, Huánuco, Junín, La Libertad, Loreto, Madre de Dios, Piura, Puno, San Martín, Ucayali and Pasco), Suriname (in the administrative districts of Brokopondo, Para, and Paramaribo), and Venezuela (in the states of Amazonas and Bolívar) (Chippaux 1986; Guedes et al. 2018; Harvey and Embert 2009; Kornacker et al. 2010; Natera Mumaw et al. 2015; Noboa 2017;

Nogueira et al. 2019; Rivas et al. 2012; Starace 1997, 1998, 2013). Following the biogeographic regionalization proposed by Morrone (2014), the localities of *Dipsas catesbyi* are in the provinces of Atlantic, Guiana Lowland, Imeri, Madeira, Napo, Pantepui, Pará, Rondonia, Roraima, Sabana, and Xingú-Tapajos. The elevations for most localities are between 50–1000 m in elevation, but some peripheral localities on the Andean slopes can be as high as ~2000 m. The records in the Atlantic rainforest are restricted to the localities of Feira de Santana, Ilhéus, Itabuna, and Porto Seguro in the state of Bahia (Argôlo 2004); there are no published hypotheses that address this disjunct population along the Atlantic Coast. A specimen from Rio Grande do Sul originally identified as *Dipsas catesbyi* (Cope 1885) was later described as *Dipsas garmani* (= *Dipsas mikani*) (Cope 1887). Presence of *Dipsas catesbyi* in Paraguay (Bertoni 1914, 1939; Böckeler 1988; Gatti 1955; Schouten 1931, 1937) is rejected for multiple reasons (Cacciali 2006; Cacciali et al. 2016): specimens were later identified as *Sibynomorphus turgidus*, records from Asunción are in error, and earlier reports were based upon placing the species in territory later lost in war with Bolivia. Implied presence of *Dipsas catesbyi* in Argentina (Berg 1901; Ihering 1911) is in error. Maps that cover the entire range of this species were presented by Guedes et al. (2018), Lima and Prudente (2009), Nogueira et al. (2019), Pérez-Santos and Moreno (1988), and Peters (1960a); maps of habitat fragmentation and an extrapolated distribution of *Dipsas catesbyi* in Bolivia were published by Embert (2007).

FOSSIL RECORD. None.

PERTINENT LITERATURE. Besides the previously mentioned citations, the following references provide specific information about some biological aspects of *Dipsas catesbyi*. **General accounts and lists** were published by

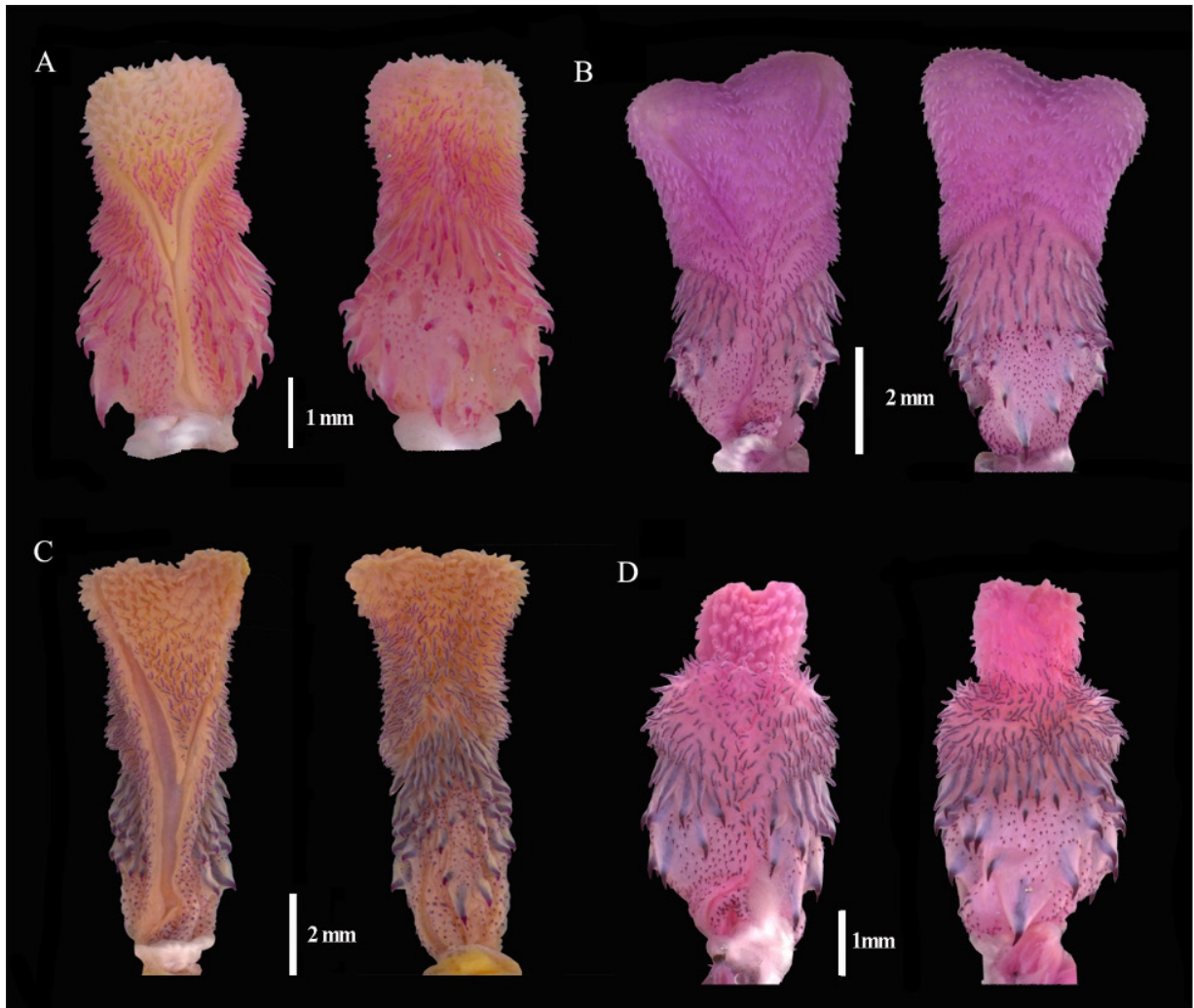


FIGURE 5. Sulcate (left) and asulcate (right) faces of the hemipenes of *Dipsas catesbyi*: (A) EPN (Museo de Historia Natural "Gustavo Orcés V.", Instituto de Ciencias Biológicas de la Escuela Politécnica Nacional, Quito) 4220, (B) UFBA (Museu de Zoogia de Universidade Federal de Bahia, Salvador) 655, (C) QCAZ (Museo de Zoologia, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador, Quito) 28, (D) QCAZ 1627 (all images from Sánchez-Martínez 2016).

Bartlett and Bartlett (2003), Boundy (2021), Díaz-Recaurte et al. (2020), Duméril et al. (1854, 2012), Freiberg (1982), Gray (1831), Henkel and Schmidt (2007, 2010), Hutchins et al. (2003), Mattison (1999, 2006), Nakai and Kawazoe (2021), Peters (1960a), Sokolov (1988), The Encyclopedia of Animals (2004), The Encyclopedia of Reptiles Amphibians & Invertebrates (2006a, 2006b), Wallach et al. (2014), and Werner (1908). **Regional checklists and publications** are presented by country. **Bolivia:** Boettger (1888), Cadle et al. (2003), Ihering (1911), Kempff Merc-

do (1975), Procter (1923), and Quintana and Padial (2003); **Brazil:** Amaral (1937b, 1949), Ávila Pires (2005), Ávila Pires et al. (2009, 2010, 2018), Bernarde (2004, 2012, 2014), Bernarde and Abe (2006), Bernarde et al. (2012), Cope (1876), Cunha and Nascimento (1978, 1993), Cunha et al. (1985), da Silva et al. (2010), Farias (2016), Fraga et al. (2011), França and Venâncio (2010), França et al. (2006), Freitas (1999, 2003, 2015), Freitas et al. (2020), Frota et al. (2005), Hamdan and Lira-da-Silva (2012), Hoge (1967), Hoogmoed (1979, 1983), Ihering (1911), Maschio (2008),

Maschio et al. (2016), Mendes-Pinto and Marques de Souza (2011), Moraes and dos Anjos Oliveira (2018), Moraes et al. (2017), Morato et al. (2018a, 2018b), Nogueira et al. (2019), Rojas-Padilla et al. (2020), Sawaya (2003), Silva et al. (2011), Vogt and Bernhard (2003), and Voženilek (1981); **Colombia**: Acosta-Galvis et al. (2018), Cañas-Orozco (2015), Dunn (1944, 1957), López et al. (2010), Lynch et al. (2019), Medem (1969), Medina-Rangel et al. (2018), Pérez-Santos and Moreno (1988), Sánchez-C. et al. (1995), and Shreve (1947); **Ecuador**: Almendáriz (1991), Carrillo et al. (2005), Cisneros-Heredia (2003), Fugler and Walls (1978), Ihering (1911), Izquierdo et al. (2000), Maynard et al. (2017), Miyata (1982), Peracca (1897b, 2007b), Pérez-Santos and Moreno (1991), Peters (1960b), Rendahl and Vestergren (1941), Torres-Carvajal et al. (2019), Yáñez-Muñoz and Chimbo (2007), Yáñez-Muñoz and Mueses-Cisneros (2009), and Yáñez-Muñoz and Venegas (2008a, 2008b); **French Guiana**: Abuys (2003), Ávila Pires (2005), Born and Gaucher (2001), and Hoogmoed (1979, 1983); **Guyana**: Abuys (2003), Ávila Pires (2005), Claessen (2003), Donnelly et al. (2005), Hoogmoed (1979, 1983), Ihering (1911) MacCulloch and Lathrop (2009), Parker (1935), Pogoda (2018), and Snyder (2019); **Peru**: Carrillo de Espinoza and Icochea (1995), Catenazzi and Venegas (2012), Catenazzi et al. (2013), Chaparro et al. (2016), Cope (1876), Dixon and Soini (1977, 1986), Doan and Arriaga (2002), Duellman and Mendelson (1995), Duellman and Salas (1991), Franklin (2001), Gagliardi-Urutia (2010), Gagliardi-Urutia et al. (2015, 2016), Henle and Ehrl (1991), Ihering (1911), Lamar (1997), Lehr (2001, 2002), Lehr and Lara (2002), López-Rojas (2009), May et al. (2006), Morales (1997), Peracca (1897a, 2007a), Rabosky et al. (2019), Rodríguez and Cadle (1990), Rodríguez and Knell (2003), Schmidt and Walker (1943), Tschudi (1845, 1968), Venegas and Gagliardi (2013), Venegas et al. (2014), and Yáñez-Muñoz and

Venegas (2008a, 2008b); **Suriname**: Abuys (1983a, 1983b, 2003), Ávila Pires (2005), and Kappler (1885); **Venezuela**: Anonymous (n.d., 1970), Ávila Pires (2005), Barrio-Amorós (2013), Gorzula and Señaris (1998), Hoogmoed (1979, 1983), Kornacker (1999), La Marca (1997), Lancini V. (1979, 1986), Lancini and Kornacker (1989), Natera-Mumaw and Battiston (2008), Natera Mumaw et al. (2015), Navarrete et al. ([2006], 2009), Pefaur (1992), Pefaur and Rivero (2000), Rojas-Runjaic and Señaris (2018), and Roze (1957 [in error], 1966).

Relevant citations are listed by topic: **abundance** (Carvalho 2006; da Silva et al. 2010; Donnelly et al. 2005), **conservation status** (Venegas et al. 2014), **cranial morphology** (Brongersma 1958; Cunha and Nascimento 1993; Haas 1931; Zaher et al. 2014), **daily activity and microhabitat** (Maschio 2008; Maschio et al. 2016; Noboa 2017; Santos-Costa 2003; Santos-Costa et al. 2015), **defensive behavior** (Bernarde 2012; Henderson 1984; Marciano et al. 2015; Maschio 2008; Santos-Costa 2003; Santos-Costa et al. 2015), **diet and feeding behavior** (Agudo-Padrón 2013; Bernarde and Abe 2006, 2010; Claessen 2003; Collet 2019; da Silva et al. 2010; Duellman 1990; Farias 2016; Marques et al. 2017; Maschio 2008; Natera Mumaw et al. 2015; Niceforo Maria 1930, 1933; Santos-Costa 2003; Santos-Costa et al. 2015; Zimmerman and Rodrigues 1990), **general morphology and variation** (Abuys 1983a, 1983b, 2003; Chippaux 1986; Cunha and Nascimento 1978, 1993; Cunha et al. 1985; Farias 2016; Fugler and Walls 1978; Gomes 1918; Guichenot 1855; Harnack 1953; Harrington et al. 2018; Harvey and Embert 2009; Ihering 1911; MacCulloch and Lathrop 2004; Niceforo Maria 1933; Peters 1956; Prado and Hoge 1947b; Rendahl and Vestergren 1941; Schmidt and Walker 1943), **habitat** (Duellman 2005; Fraga et al. 2011; Gagliardi-Urutia et al. 2015; Natera Mumaw et al. 2015; Rojas-Runjaic and Señaris 2018; Sheehy 2006;

Venegas et al. 2014), **hemipenial morphology** (Brongersma 1958), **museum collections** (Amaral 1927; Boettger 1898; Elter 1981; França et al. 2006; Griffin 1916; Gutsche et al. 2007; Mendes-Pinto et al. 2011; Schmidt and Walker 1943), **osteology** (Van Lidth de Jeude 1898, 1917), **parasites** (Lamas and Lunaschi 2009; Smales 2007; Upton et al. 1989), **predation** (Rivas Fuenmayor 2002), **reproductive biology and ecology** (Alves et al. 2005; Bernarde 2012; Farias 2016; Fitch 1970, 1982, 1985; Greene 1997, 1999; Köhler 2004; Maschio 2008; Niceforo Maria 1933; Pizzatto et al. 2007, 2008; Santos-Costa et al. 2015; Werner 1901; Zug et al. 1979), **road mortality** (França and Venâncio 2010; Maschio et al. 2016), **snake communities** (Carvalho 2006; Doan and Arriaga 2002), **tongue morphology** (Smith and Mackay 1990), **tail morphology** (Sheehy 2006), **taxonomic and nomenclatural references** (Amaral 1929, 1937a; Boettger 1888; Cunha and Nascimento 1978; Harvey and Embert 2009; Jan 1863, 2012; Jenner 1981; Kornacker 1999; Peters 1965; Peters and Orejas-Miranda 1970, 1986; Savage and McDiarmid 2018; Sokolov 1988; Wallach et al. 2014), and **visceral morphology** (Brongersma 1957, 1958; Wallach 1995, 1998; Werner 1911).

NOMENCLATURAL HISTORY. ‘U. J. [Ulrich Jasper] Seetzen’ is generally credited as the taxonomic authority for *Dipsas catesbyi*. The species was described as *Coluber Catesbeji* in part 2 of the *Ophiologische Fragmente* (1796) and an extensive description was provided in part 6 of the same work. That followed the use of the same name a year previous in a species price list with no description (Seetzen 1795). The spelling ‘Seetzen’ in the 1796 work was a typographical error – the author’s proper name was Ulrich Seetzen (see Adler, 2012:51–52). In 1831, John Gray listed the name as “*Dip. Catesbæi* Col. *Cates* Weig.” (p. 95). The name “*Leptognathus catesbyi*, Weigel in Meyer’s Archiv, ii. 55–66” was pro-

vided by Günther (1858:180), and he again referenced Weigel as the authority in 1861. We were unable to identify the name *catesbyi* in any of Weigel’s herpetological works. “Meyer’s Archiv” clearly is the Zoologisches Archiv edited by Friedrich Albrecht Anton Meyer, but the author is Seetzen (‘Seetzen’), not Weigel; page 55 refers to the initial use of the name and page 66 to the beginning of the description of ‘*Coluber Catesbeji*’. Additional references to Weigel as the authority for the name include Cope (1868, 1886), Rüppell (1845), and Tschudi (1845).

A single attribution, apparently to Wagler as the authority, was published in error by Kappler (1885: 818, “*Leptognathus Catesbyi* Wglr.”).

The name *Petalognathus catesbyi* was recognized as a synonym for *Dipsas catesbyi* in error by Briseño Rossi (1934a, 1934b), who cited Ditmars (1933) as the authority. A photo of a specimen of *Imantodes* sp. that was labeled incorrectly and published as *Petalognathus catesbyi* by Ditmars (1933: Plate 47; see Boos 2001) was in turn incorrectly identified as *Dipsas catesbyi* by Briseño Rossi: “Esa misma especie [*Sibynomorphus Catesbyi* = *Dipsas catesbyi*] la presenta Ditmar [sic] en su magnífico libro (Reptiles of the world [sic]) como ‘*Petalognathus catesbyi*’ y que él llama también con el nombre vulgar de ‘Blunt-headed Snake’...” (Briseño Rossi 1934b:100). This misattribution by Ditmars began in his first edition of *The Reptiles of the World* (as *Leptognathus Catesbyi*, Ditmars 1910) and persisted in subsequent editions (as *Petalognathus Catesbyi*, Ditmars 1933, 1964). Although this specific error by Briseño Rossi was not identified, Vanzolini noted that the work by Briseño Rossi (1934a) was “distressingly confused and careless” (Vanzolini 1978:85).

An argument was made by Wallach et al. (2014) to support the 1796 spelling of the epithet, *Catesbeji*, based on the fact that that spelling was used in two Seetzen (‘Seetzen’)

publications (1795 and 1796) which Catesby's name was elsewhere correctly spelled.

REMARKS. *Dipsas catesbyi* is included in the group known as “goo-eaters” (Cadle and Greene 1993; Fernandes 1995). The “goo-eaters” are a group of highly diversified and ecologically specialized Neotropical dipsadines that feed exclusively on invertebrates (e.g., gastropod mollusks and annelids; Zaher et al. 2014). Within this group, *Dipsas* is one of the genera usually called “snail-eating” snakes (Dunn 1951; Kofron 1982; Peters 1960a; Porto and Fernandes 1996; Sazima 1989), molluscivorous specialists that feed mainly on slugs and snails (Zaher et al. 2014). The “goo-eaters” show an evolutionary success attributed to their singular behavioral and morphological modifications for extracting snails from their shells (Peters 1960a; Savitzky 1983; Zaher et al. 2014). These feeding strategies remain poorly understood, but it has been thought that *Dipsas* and *Sibynomorphus*, the more derived genera within Dipsadini, use glandular toxins secreted from their infralabial glands to extract snails from their shells (Zaher et al. 2014).

ETYMOLOGY. The specific epithet *catesbyi* is a tribute to Mark Catesby (1683–1749), an English naturalist sponsored by the Royal Society to catalog flora and fauna of the Carolinas and the Bahamas (Adler 2015; Beolens et al. 2011; Catesby 1734–1737; Nelson and Elliot 2015).

ADDITIONAL VERNACULAR NAMES. Spanish common names include caracolera (Acosta-Galvis et al. 2018; Natera Mumaw et al. 2015; Rojas-Runjaic and Señaris 2018), caracolera de Catesbyi (Carrillo et al. 2005; Kornacker 1999; Kornacker et al. 2010), cinta machacui, cordoncillo (Izquierdo et al. 2000), jardinera (specific to Peru: Tipton 2005), jergón (specific to Peru: Tipton 2005), nina jergón (specific to Peru: Tipton 2005), serpi-

ente caracolera (Lynch et al. 2019), and falsa yope (Kempff Mercado 1975). Portuguese common names within its geographic range in Brazil include cobra-cipó (Cunha and Nascimento 1978; Starace 1998), come-lesma (Moraes and dos Anjos Oliveira 2018), dormideira (Argôlo 1992; Cunha and Nascimento 1978; França et al. 2006; Freitas 1999; Starace 1998), and dorminhoca (Cunha and Nascimento 1978; Claessen 2003; Starace 1998). Dutch common names include dubbelgevlekte dikkopslang (=double-spotted thickhead) and dubbelgevlekte slakkeneter (=double-spotted snail-eater) (Abuys 2003, 2015; Claessen 2003). English common names include brown-saddled snake (Abuys 1983a, 1983b; Beebe 1946; Claessen 2003), Catesby's slug eater (Tipton 2005), Catesby's snail-eater (Abuys 2015; Çinar 2012; Ernst and Zug 1996; Fotolulu 2018; Frank and Ramus 1995; Greene 1997), Catesby's snail-sucker (Çinar 2012; Coborn 1994; Peters 1956), Catesby's snake (Beebe 1946), ornate snail-eating snake (Bartlett and Bartlett 2003), ornate thirst snake (Çinar 2012; Lamar 1997; Pearson and Beletsky 2001, 2002; Russell 2001; Wrobel 2004). Common names in additional languages include Chinese: 亚马逊食螺蛇 [Amazon snail-eating snake] (Zhao et al. 1993, 1998), French: Stremmatognathe de Catesbyi (Guichenot 1855), German: Catesby's Dickkopf-natter (Lancini and Kornacker 1989), Guarani: ñandurié (Gatti 1955), Kallina: were kuponon (Starace 1998), Japanese: ケーツビーマイマイヘビ [Kētsubī maimai hebi; Catesby's snail snake] (Nakai and Kawazoe 2021), Shuar: cara machakin (Rouby and Riedmayer 1983), and Yanomami: nanimuxirimak (L. Vitt, J. Caldwell, and C. Morato, personal communication in Tipton 2005).

COMMENTS. Pérez-Santos and Moreno (1988) pointed out two specimens from the Andean Region of Colombia (AMNH 35605 and MCZ 19208), of which the first was misidentified (personal observations). Regarding

the second specimen, according to the database of the Museum of Comparative Zoology of Harvard University, it was collected in "Colombia, Bogotá, Villavicencio" by H. Nicéforo Maria. The recorded locality refers, in fact, to two different localities, Bogotá at the Andean Region at 2,640 m, and Villavicencio in the Orinoco Region at 467 m. Because there are no other published records of *Dipsas catesbyi* from the Andean Region, but some are known from Villavicencio, also collected by Niceforo Maria (MLS [Museo de Historia Natural de La Salle, Bogotá] 330, 337, 340), we assumed that Villavicencio is the correct locality. Considering these two cases and our lack of confidence in this Andean locality, we have used a '?' in our map to represent this locality.

Despite the observed variation of the hemipenial morphology, all the specimens have the principal features of the species. The subtle differences observed could be considered examples of intraspecific variation, but also as artifacts of preparation or anomalies of the specimen.

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- Exactement Dessinés. Avec leur Descriptions en François et en Anglois. A quoi on a Adjouté, des Observations sur l'Air, le Sol, & les Eaux, avec des Remarques sur l'Agriculture, les Grains, les Legumes, les Racines, &c. Le tout est Precedé d'une Carte Nouvelle & Exacte des Païs dont ils s'Agist. Tome II. The Author, London. 100 + [6] + XLIV + 20 + [1] pp., 120 pls., 1 map.
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