

A Second Specimen of *Ophisaurus ceroni*

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The glass lizard *Ophisaurus ceroni* was described on a single individual with a partially broken tail, found dead on the road, in coastal dune-scrub within the city limits of Veracruz, Veracruz, Mexico (Holman, 1964). The capture of another *O. ceroni* is thus of interest, as it represents the first *Ophisaurus* taken alive and undamaged in Mexico and the second known specimen of *O. ceroni* (Figs. 1-2).

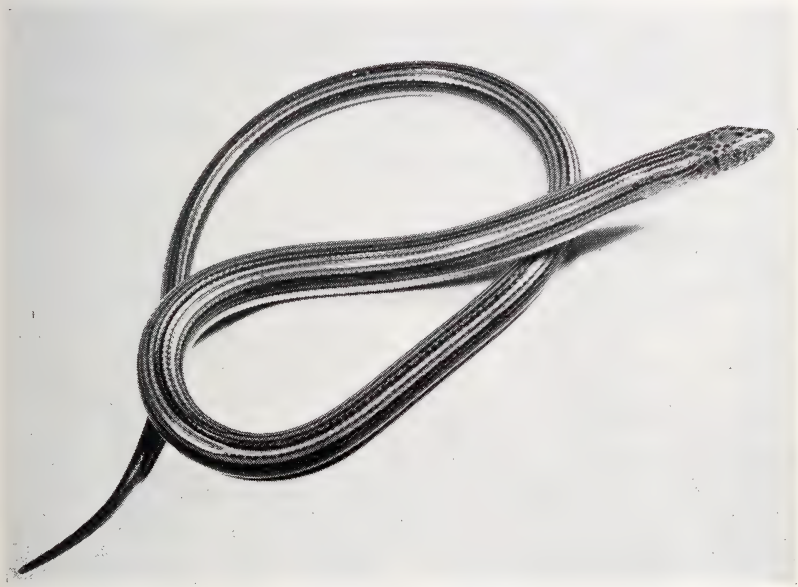


Fig. 1. *Ophisaurus ceroni* Holman. Photograph from life.

This toptype, Museum of Natural History Illinois State University No. 391, was taken in coastal dune-scrub (Fig. 3) at Veracruz, August 31, 1965, by J. Alan Holman and Donna Rae Holman.

DESCRIPTION

Snout-vent length 181 mm; tail length 335 mm; snout-vent/tail .540; length of regenerated portion of tail 43 mm; head width 10.8 mm; eye diameter 3.5 mm; dorsal scales in 14 longitudinal series; scales around parietal 7-7; upper labials 11-11; preoculars

3-3; postnasals 2-2; scales around tail 18; scales along lateral fold 101.



Fig. 2. Head of *Ophisaurus ceroni* Holman. Photograph from life.

Frontonasal divided into anterior and posterior frontonasal; labials separated from orbit by lorilabials and suboculars; prefrontals separated by a posterior extension of the frontonasal; upper postnasal in contact with supracanthal row as well as with anteriormost canthal; anterior frontonasal separates postinternals; five supraoculars; canthals extending to just anterior to middle of eye; frontal broad posteriorly, pointed anteriorly, anterior end separating prefrontals; interparietal broad anteriorly, tapering to a point posteriorly; occipital narrower than interparietal at its greatest width; frontoparietal in contact with third and fourth supraoculars; first and second upper labials in contact with nasal.

Body broader than high; dorsal scales keeled, ventrals smooth and flat. Ear opening oval, larger than round nostril. Dorsal ground color grayish-brown, interrupted by three distinct dark stripes, two lateral and one mid-dorsal. Each lateral dark stripe divided by a light line and occupying parts of two scale rows; mid-dorsal stripe divided by very thin light line and occupying adjacent halves of two scale rows; discrete white spots lacking on both back and sides; no stripes or other dark pigmentation below lateral fold. Head light grayish-brown; both top and sides of head speckled with dark spots; vertical bars lacking on neck.



Fig. 3. Type locality of *Ophisaurus ceroni* Holman. Coastal dune-scrub at Veracruz, Veracruz, Mexico, September 3, 1965.

DISCUSSION

The specimen has all the diagnostic characters that separate *O. ceroni* from other species of the genus. The few minor differences between the second specimen and the holotype may be attributed to individual variation. These differences are as follows: (1) prefrontals separated by a posterior extension of frontonasal (prefrontals in broad contact in holotype); (2) occipital narrower than interparietal at its greatest width (occipital about as broad as interparietal at its greatest width in holotype); (3) lateral and mid-dorsal stripe relatively broad with each stripe divided by a thin light line (lateral and mid-dorsal stripe somewhat narrower, not separated by thin light lines in holotype); (4) vertical neck bars absent (four quite indistinct, vertical bars on neck of holotype).

The new lizard was caught at 9:00 AM as it crawled in a grassy section of coastal dune-scrub only a few feet from where the holotype was collected. In captivity, the lizard spends much time partially or fully buried in the sand. The reptile emerges

occasionally and crawls about with very deliberate motions. During such times it will usually take cockroaches (*Nauphota cinerea*) from the end of a forceps. On one occasion it ate 10 roaches within a few minutes, but it has never chased the insects. Once the lizard attacked a large, sluggish grasshopper that was placed in the terrarium, but after chewing on the insect for more than half an hour, the lizard declined to swallow it. Newly born garter snakes (*Thamnophis elegans vagrans*) were offered, but were not attacked by the glass lizard. Carr (1940) states that Florida *Ophisaurus* eats small snakes and lizards.

McConkey (1954) recognized three New World *Ophisaurus* species in his comprehensive study of the genus. Since two additional species have been described from Mexico (see McConkey, 1955; Holman, 1964), I append the following key to the known New World species of *Ophisaurus*.

KEY TO NEW WORLD SPECIES OF OPHISAURUS

1. Scales along lateral fold 97 or less..... *O. compressus*
Scales along lateral fold 98 or more 2
2. Dark stripes or dark pigmentation below lateral fold..... *O. attenuatus*
No dark strikes or dark pigmentation below lateral fold..... 3
3. Mid-dorsal dark stripe distinct throughout; frontonasal divided;
white spots on dorsum absent..... *O. ceroni*
Mid-dorsal stripe indistinct or absent; frontonasal usually undivided;
white spots on dorsum present..... 4
4. Distinct vertical white neck bars present..... *O. ventralis*
Vertical white neck bars absent..... *O. incomptus*

LITERATURE CITED

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