

Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

McCrane, J.R. and L.D. Wilson. 1991. *Rhadinaea kinkelini*.

***Rhadinaea kinkelini* Boettger**

Rhadinaea kinkelini Boettger, 1898:68. Type-locality, "Matagalpa, Nicaragua," but probably from a higher elevation in the Cordillera Dariense above Matagalpa (Myers, 1974). Holotype, Natur-Museum und Forschungs-Institut Senckenberg (SMF) 19062 (Mertens, 1967), an adult female, collected by Adolf Kinkelin, donated in 1897 (not examined by authors).

Liophis kinkelini: Amaral, 1929:172.

Rhadinaea veraepacis Stuart and Bailey, 1941:9. Type-locality, "in the pine zone (5100 ft.) at Finca Chichén, Alta Verapaz, Guatemala." Holotype, Univ. Michigan Mus. Zool. (UMMZ) 89077, a juvenile male, collected by L.C. Stuart, 17 May 1940 (not examined by authors).

Trimetopon veraepacis: Stuart, 1949:167.

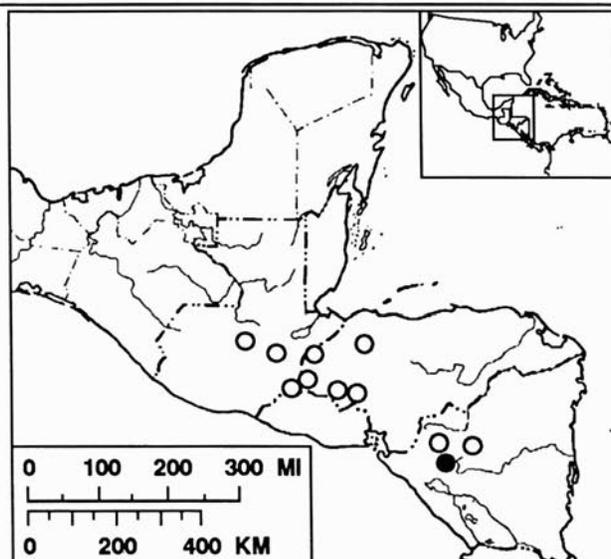
T(rimetopon). veraepacis: Sokolov, 1988:335. *Lapsus*.

- **Content.** The species is monotypic.

• **Definition and Diagnosis.** *Rhadinaea kinkelini* is a small species (maximum known TL, 376 mm) of the *R. godmani* group with 17 smooth dorsal scale rows throughout the body, 8 supralabials, 1 preocular, 2 postoculars, and 1+2 temporals. Ventrals and subcaudals range from 136-163 (136-150 in males, 148-164 in females) and from 70-83 (77-83 in males, 70-73 in females), respectively.

The body pattern consists of a tan to brown ground color and a complex of dark lines and stripes. A prominent middorsal stripe, occupying the middle portion of the middorsal row, and another lateral stripe, occupying row 4 and adjacent portions of rows 3 and 5, are present. Supplemental stripes or lines are present on the ventral tips and the adjacent portion of row 1, and on the adjacent edges of rows 1 and 2, 2 and 3, 6 and 7, and occasionally 5 and 6 and/or 7 and 8. The venter is creamy yellow. The head is dark brown dorsally with paired pale spots on the frontal scute (at least in preservative, not always visible in life). The tan neck ring is about 2 scales long, is usually interrupted by the vertebral line, and is usually located 2 scales behind the parietals. The supralabials are brown-edged with cream centers on the first seven, those of 6 and 7 are sometimes fused, "... creating the impression of a pale stripe from the eye to the lip" (Wilson and Meyer, 1985). The chin is cream.

• **Descriptions.** Boettger (1898) described the scutellation and color pattern of the holotype. Myers (1974) described the scutellation, color pattern, maxillary dentition, and hemipenis based on five specimens, including the holotype of *R. veraepacis* Stuart and Bailey. Wilson and Meyer (1985) supplemented Myers' (1974) data



Map. Distribution of *Rhadinaea kinkelini*. The solid circle marks the type-locality, open circles mark other known localities.

on scutellation by including data on one additional Honduran specimen. Campbell (1982) included some scutellational data and information on maxillary tooth numbers, including data taken from Myers (1974) and specimens collected in the Sierra de las Minas of Guatemala.

• **Illustrations.** Wilson and Meyer (1985) provided a color photograph of *R. kinkelini*. Myers (1974) included black and white photographs showing the head and neck patterns of two specimens. The midbody color pattern was illustrated in Myers (1974) and Wilson and Meyer (1982, 1985).

• **Distribution.** *Rhadinaea kinkelini* occurs in disjunct montane habitats of both versants from central Guatemala and extreme northwestern El Salvador southward through Honduras to north-central Nicaragua. The species has been recorded from 1300-2200 m elevation in hardwood cloud forests (Lower Montane Wet Forest and Lower Montane Moist Forest formations of Holdridge, 1967) and pine forest (Subtropical Moist Forest formation of Holdridge, 1967).

Honduran specimens with data available were taken from beneath logs in cleared areas of hardwood cloud forest or inside or under rotten pine logs in pine forest. Campbell (1982) stated that the species was eliminated or drastically reduced in abundance by



Figure 1. *Rhadinaea kinkelini* from 22.5 km E Nueva Ocotepeque, Depto. Ocotepeque, Honduras.

clearing of the hardwood cloud forests in the Sierra de las Minas of Guatemala. The holotype of *R. veraepacis* "was found ensnared in a spider-web ..." (Stuart and Bailey, 1941).

• **Fossil Record.** None.

• **Pertinent Literature.** Myers (1974) synonymized *Rhadinaea veraepacis* Stuart and Bailey of Guatemala with *R. kinkelini* Boettger of Nicaragua and recorded the species from El Salvador. Meyer and Wilson (1972) reported the first record of *R. kinkelini* from Honduras. Campbell (1982) presented a cladogram showing the proposed relationships of *kinkelini* within the *R. godmani* group. Myers (1974) summarized the little available ecological information. Campbell and Vannini (1989) presented a table on the distribution and elevational range of the species in Guatemala. Wilson et al. (1979) cited two localities where *R. kinkelini* is known to occur syntopically with two other members of the *R. godmani* group. Villa et al. (1988) listed most of the pertinent literature.

• **Etymology.** The specific name honors Adolf Kinkelin, the collector of the holotype. The common name Lagartijerita (Little Lizard Hunter) was used by Anon. (1984) and Lagartijerita Rayada (Little Striped Lizard Hunter) by Villa (1983).

• **Comments.** Nothing has been published on the food habits of this species. The head and neck of a snake, *Adelphicos quadrivirgatus* (KU 203088), was removed by us from the stomach of a Honduran specimen of *R. kinkelini* (KU 203089).

Data in the Definition section also includes those on recently-collected Honduran specimens as follows: FMNH 236407, Depto. Ocotepeque, El Portillo de Ocotepeque, 20.1 km E Nueva Ocotepeque;

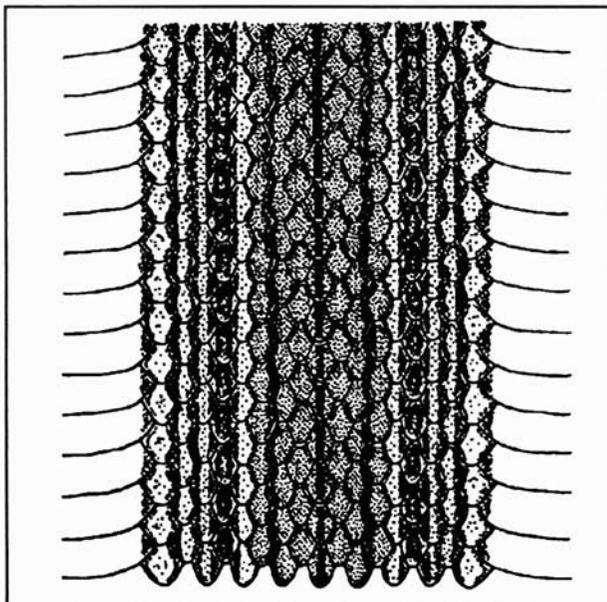


Figure 2. Dorsal pattern of *Rhadinaea kinkelini* (LSUMZ 23828) from 21 km E Nueva Ocotepeque, Depto. Ocotepeque, Honduras (from Wilson and Meyer, 1985).

KU 217397, Depto. Intibucá, 18.1 km NW La Esperanza; KU 217398, Depto. La Paz, 13.7 km N Marcala.

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Primary editor for this account, Robert Powell.

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