

Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

WILSON, LARRY DAVID. 1975. *Drymobius chloroticus*.*Drymobius chloroticus* (Cope)
Green Highland Racer*Dendrophidion chloroticum* Cope, 1886:278. Type-locality, "Guatemala," delimited to Cobán, Guatemala by Cope (1887). Holotype, U. S. Natl. Mus. 6755, adult female, collected by H. Hague, date of collection unknown (examined by author).*Drymobius chloroticus*: Cope, 1887:69.*Drymobius brunneus* (non Günther, 1858) Bocourt, 1890:718. Type-locality unknown. Holotype not designated and not determinable—Jean Guibé, in litt. (not examined by author).*Drymobius dendrophis*: Amaral, 1930:13.

- CONTENT. *Drymobius chloroticus* is monotypic.

- DEFINITION. A species of *Drymobius* with a green dorsal coloration (occasionally brown or gray), no dark pigment on the keels of median three dorsal scale rows, and 107 to 125 subcaudals.

- DESCRIPTIONS. Descriptions of color pattern and/or scutellation were presented by Cope (1886), Boulenger (1894), Stuart (1933), Smith (1943), Livezy and Peckham (1953), Darling and Smith (1954), Alvarez del Toro (1960), and Wilson (1970). Wilson (1970) described the maxilla and hemipenis.

- ILLUSTRATIONS. The only published illustrations of *D. chloroticus* are those of the head, maxilla, and hemipenis presented by Wilson (1970).

- DISTRIBUTION. The species *Drymobius chloroticus* occurs primarily in Lower Montane Moist Forest and Lower Montane Wet Forest formations (cloud forest) at intermediate elevations (*sensu* Stuart, 1963), but also descends into Subtropical Wet Forest and Subtropical Moist Forest formations at moderate elevations. It ranges from southern San Luis Potosí south to northwestern Honduras on the Atlantic versant and from south-central Oaxaca to northern Nicaragua on the Pacific versant. The altitudinal range is 850–2200 meters.

- FOSSIL RECORD. None.

- PERTINENT LITERATURE. There is very little information on any aspect of the biology of *D. chloroticus*, except for taxonomy. Habitat has been described by Stuart (1948), Duellman (1966), Landy, Langebartel, Moll, and Smith (1966), and Wilson (1970). Food preferences have been discussed by Stuart (1948) and Alvarez del Toro (1960). A note on reproduction appeared in Stuart (1948).

The relationships of *D. chloroticus* to other members of the

genus *Drymobius* have been treated by Stuart (1932, 1933) and Wilson (1970). Stuart (1933) reversed Amaral's (1930) referral of *chloroticus* to the synonymy of *Dendrophidion dendrophis* ("*Drymobius dendrophis*").

- ETYMOLOGY. The name *chloroticus* is formed from the Greek word *chloros*, meaning "green," referring to the green dorsal color of the snake.

COMMENT

Wilson (1970) demonstrated the sympatry of *Drymobius chloroticus* and *D. melanotropis* in the vicinity of Matagalpa, Nicaragua. This was based, however, on but two specimens, one of each species. The precise nature of the relationship between these two very closely related snakes remains to be firmly established.

There is, in addition, a need to determine the range and status of the color pattern variants of *D. chloroticus* described by Wilson (1970).

Finally, there is need to study the biology of this species while relatively undisturbed remnants of its cloud forest habitat still remain.

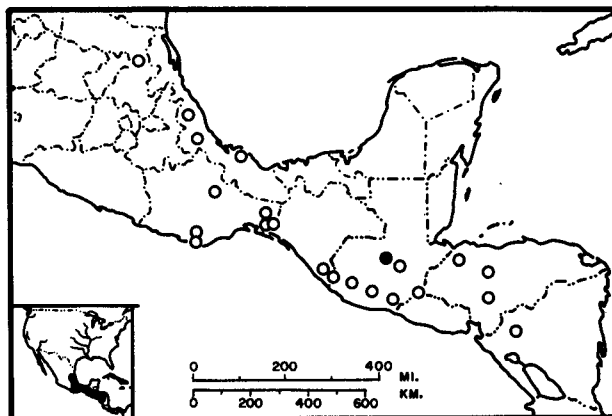
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MAP. Solid symbol marks the type-locality; hollow symbols indicate other localities.