

## Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

McCRANIE, JAMES R. 1980. *Crotalus pricei*.

***Crotalus pricei* Van Denburgh**  
Twin-spotted rattlesnake

*Crotalus pricei* Van Denburgh, 1895:856. Type-locality, "Huachuca Mts., Arizona." Holotype, Stanford University 1702, now in California Academy of Sciences, CAS-SU 1702, young male, collected by W. W. Price, July or August 1893 (not examined by author).

*Crotalus triseriatus*: Amaral, 1927:52 (in part).  
C[*rotalus*]. t[*riseriatus*]. *pricei*: Klauber, 1931:33.

• CONTENT. Two subspecies are recognized: *miquihuanus* and *pricei*.

• DIAGNOSIS. *Crotalus pricei* differs from all other *Crotalus* in that the first supralabial normally curves up behind the postnasal to contact a prefoveal. The species also differs from its closest relative, *C. intermedius*, in having no contact between the loreal and any supralabial (loreal and one or more supralabials nearly always in contact in *intermedius*) and in that prefoveals are always present in *pricei*, whereas they are nearly always absent in *intermedius*. *Crotalus pricei* differs from *C. triseriatus* in that the anterior subocular usually contacts the third and fourth supralabials (normally fourth and fifth in *triseriatus*), the second subocular often contacts the fourth and fifth supralabials (rarely touches a supralabial in *triseriatus*), the posterior edge of the orbit is usually opposite the fourth and fifth supralabials (usually opposite the sixth or seventh in *triseriatus*), contact between the postnasal and both the internasal and canthal is seldom made (contact with both is normal in *triseriatus*), and the dorsal pattern consists of a series of spots on either side of the middorsal line, sometimes becoming confluent and thus forming narrow transverse cross bands (a single series of large middorsal subquadranular blotches in *triseriatus*).

• DEFINITION. *Crotalus pricei* is a small rattlesnake, ranging in size from about 130 mm at birth to about 650 mm. The dorsal pattern is comprised largely of two rows of small dark brown spots on each side of the middorsal line. These spots number 39–63 ( $\bar{x} = 52$ ) on each side. They may frequently fuse together as narrow crossbands with the number of such bands varying from none to the entire series. The background color is blue-gray, gray, or pale brown. Scutellation is as follows: 21–23 ( $\bar{x} = 21$ ) scale rows at midbody, all keeled except for the lowest one; 135–162 ventrals in males, 143–171 in females; 21–32 subcaudals in males, 18–27 in females; supralabials 8–10 ( $\bar{x} = 9$ ); infralabials 8–12 ( $\bar{x} = 9.8$ ); prefoveals 1–2 (occasionally 3); canthals 1–1; intercanthals 0–9. There is broad contact between the postnasal and the first supralabial, with the latter normally curving up behind the former to contact a prefoveal (not strongly emphasized in some southern specimens). The anterior subocular normally touches the third and fourth supralabials. The loreal is not in contact with any supralabial. The lower preocular passes above the pit and makes contact with the loreal. The second (posterior) subocular often contacts one or two supralabials, but occasionally a small scale is interposed so that they are not in contact. The posterior edge of the orbit is usually opposite the fifth supralabial but occasionally opposite the fourth. The postnasal rarely contacts both the internasal and the canthal. The prenasal is broader along the upper edge than along the lower, sometimes approaching the loreal but rarely touching it. The rostral and internasals are wider than high. The rattle fringe scales usually are 8, occasionally 9 or 10.

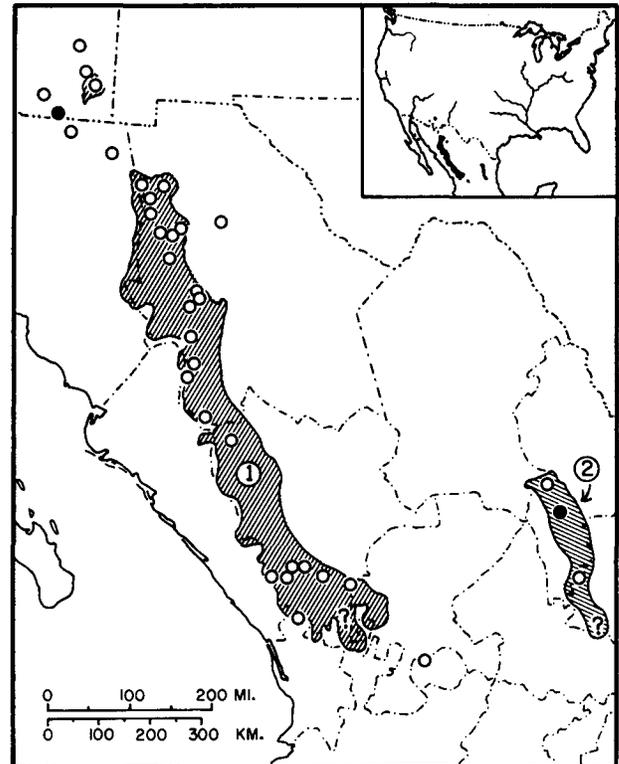
• DESCRIPTIONS AND ILLUSTRATIONS. The most complete descriptions appear in Gloyd (1940a) and Klauber (1952). Other descriptions and/or black and white illustrations appear in Van Denburgh (1895, 1896, 1922), Cope (1900), Van Denburgh and Slevin (1913), Klauber (1936, 1952, 1972), Gloyd (1937, 1940a, 1940b), Taylor and Knobloch (1940), Kauffeld (1943b), Smith (1946), Stebbins (1954), Wright and Wright (1957), Axtell and Sabath (1963), Fowle (1965), Conant (1967), Harris and Simmons (1978), and Armstrong and Murphy (1979). Color illustrations are in Stebbins (1966), Shaw and Campbell (1974), and Behler and King (1979). Habitat photographs appear in Gloyd (1937), Kauffeld

(1943a), and Armstrong and Murphy (1979). Klauber (1952) described the hemipenis, Brattstrom (1964) described and figured osteological features, and Langebartel (1968) described the hyoid apparatus.

• DISTRIBUTION. *Crotalus pricei* is a saxicolous snake found between 1,900 m and 3,200 m in pine-oak forests from the Santa Rita, Huachuca, Pinaleno (Graham), Dos Cabezas, and Chiricahua mountains of southeastern Arizona, southward into México in the Sierra Madre Occidental of northeastern Sonora and western Chihuahua through western Durango to northern Nayarit (see REMARKS). *Crotalus pricei* also occurs in the Sierra Del Nido of central Chihuahua and in the Sierra Madre Oriental of south-eastern Coahuila, southern Nuevo León, and southeastern Tamaulipas. A single specimen is known from the Sierra Fría in Aguascalientes (see REMARKS). The species should also occur in the high mountains along the eastern border of the Mexican state of Sinaloa and also in the high mountains adjacent to southern Durango in the states of Jalisco and Zacatecas. Nickerson and Mays (1970) discussed a questionable locality record in Arizona. Van Denburgh (1924) had included *C. pricei* in the herpetofauna of New Mexico on the basis of a misidentified *C. viridis* (Klauber, 1934). Harris and Simmons (1978) reidentified one of the topotypes of *C. triseriatus aquilus* from Alvarez, San Luis Potosí, México as a *C. pricei*. The specimen is *C. t. aquilus* as originally diagnosed by Klauber (1952). No specimens of *pricei* are known from the state of San Luis Potosí although the species could occur in the high mountains of the state adjacent to southwestern Tamaulipas.

• FOSSIL RECORD. None.

• PERTINENT LITERATURE. Fitch (1970) summarized the published reproductive data and Armstrong and Murphy (1979) added much data. Klauber (1972) and Wright and Wright (1957) summarized published data on food habits. Vorhies (1948) pointed out why the species feeds principally on lizards under natural conditions. Armstrong and Murphy (1979) presented the best habitat data with some references. Additional habitat data are in Kauffeld (1943a, 1957, 1969), Stebbins (1954), Wright and Wright (1957),



MAP. Solid circles mark type-localities; open circles indicate other localities. Symbols outside of shaded areas represent disjunct populations.

Axtell and Sabath (1963), and Fowle (1965). Kauffeld (1943b) provided growth data in captivity. Data on the venom are provided by Klauber (1972) and Foote and MacMahon (1977). Gloyd (1940a) included a synonymy of the species. Smith and Smith (1976) listed the majority of the literature on the species.

• **REMARKS.** The specimen from the Sierra de Nayarit, Nayarit (Mus. Nat. Hist. Natur., Paris 98-254) discussed by Klauber (1952:44) is here allocated to *C. pricei*. The cross-confluent blotches (cross bands) which caused Klauber to hesitate in assigning this specimen to *pricei*, are not unusual in specimens from southern Durango and would be expected to occur in specimens from nearby Nayarit.

I have examined Univ. Michigan Mus. Zool. 110878 from Aguascalientes, México. The head scutellation is typical of *C. pricei*, whereas the head length and the body color and pattern resemble those in some populations of *C. intermedius*. Until more specimens are available, it seems advisable to assign the specimen to *C. pricei*, while at the same time emphasizing the close relationship between *C. pricei* and *C. intermedius*.

• **ETYMOLOGY.** The name *pricei* honors W. W. Price, the collector of the type; *miquihuanus* refers to Miquihua, Tamaulipas, México, the locality of one of the paratypes.

## 1. *Crotalus pricei pricei* Van Denburgh

*Crotalus pricei* Van Denburgh, 1895:856. See species account.  
*Crotalus pricei pricei*: Smith, 1946:79.

• **DEFINITION.** A subspecies characterized by a high number of ventrals (149–162 in males, 157–171 in females) and 0–9 intercanthals (most often 4, 5 or 6).

## 2. *Crotalus pricei miquihuanus* Gloyd

*Crotalus triseriatus miquihuanus* Gloyd, 1940a:102. Type-locality, "Cerro Potosi, near Galeana, Nuevo Leon," México. Holotype, Field Mus. Natur. Hist. 30850, subadult male, collected by E. J. Koestner and Harry Hoogstraal, 16 August 1938 (not examined by author).

*Crotalus pricei miquihuanus*: Smith, 1946:79.

• **DEFINITION.** A subspecies characterized by a low number of ventrals (135–141 in males, 143–145 in females) and 0–3 intercanthals.

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