

Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

JENNINGS, MARK R. 1983. *Masticophis lateralis*.***Masticophis lateralis* (Hallowell)
Striped racer**

Leptophis lateralis Hallowell, 1853:237. Type-locality, "California," restricted by Schmidt (1953) to "San Diego" (see REMARKS). Holotype, Acad. Natur. Sci. Philadelphia 5365, juvenile male collected by Dr. Adolphus L. Heermann (examined by author).

Mastigophis lateralis: Günther, 1865:89.

Drymobius lateralis: Cronise, 1868:484.

Coluber taeniatus (part): Garman, 1883:148.

Bascanium lateralis: Duméril and Bocourt, 1886:706.

Bascanium laterale: Cope, 1892:622.

Bascanium laterale: Stejneger, 1893:209.

Zamenis taeniatus (part): Boulenger, 1893:390.

Zamenis lateralis: Cope, 1896:1018.

Zamenis laterale: Rütthling, 1915:4.

Coluber lateralis: Grinnell and Camp, 1917:190.

Masticophis lateralis: Ortenburger, 1923:2.

• CONTENT. Two subspecies: *lateralis* and *euryxanthus*.

• DEFINITION. *Masticophis lateralis* is a whipsnake with 17 dorsal scale rows on the anterior portion of the body, eight supralabials, and a dark dorsum bordered laterally by continuous, pale, longitudinal stripes $\frac{1}{4}$ -2 scales in width.

• DESCRIPTIONS. *Masticophis lateralis* was thoroughly described by Ortenburger (1928). Riemer (1954) gave an accurate account of both subspecies. General descriptions are in Van Denburgh (1897, 1922), Brown (1901), Ditmars (1939), Schmidt and Davis (1941), Stebbins (1954, 1966), Wright and Wright (1957), and Miller and Stebbins (1964).

• ILLUSTRATIONS. Black and white drawings or photographs of *M. l. lateralis* are in Hallowell (1859), Pickwell (1947), Dixon (1967), and most references under DESCRIPTIONS. Color photographs of *M. l. lateralis* are in Schmidt and Inger (1957), Shaw and Campbell (1974), and Behler and King (1979). Stebbins (1966) provided a watercolor of *M. l. euryxanthus*.

• DISTRIBUTION. *Masticophis lateralis* occurs from Trinity County, California (Bury, 1970), south to Socorro (30°58'N) in the Sierra San Pedro Mártir, Baja California, Norte (MVZ 140863; SDNHM 10524), excluding most of the Central Valley, California (Riemer, 1954). It occurs in Baja California, Del Sur, from near San Ignacio (Mocquard, 1899) to Comondu (26°10'N) (FMNH 25863). The altitudinal range is from ca. 0-2135 m (Bogert, 1930).

• FOSSIL RECORD. Reported from the Pleistocene at Rancho La Brea, Los Angeles County, California (Thomas C. LaDuke, Michigan State University, personal communication).

• PERTINENT LITERATURE. Ortenburger (1928), Wright and Wright (1957), and Smith and Smith (1973) provided partial summaries of pertinent literature. Reports on food and feeding habits are in Grinnell and Storer (1924), Fitch (1935, 1949), Walker (1946), Loomis and Stephens (1962), and Cornett (1982). Data on reproduction are in Dixon (1967), Fitch (1970), and Goldberg (1975), and Hammerson (1978) reported on mating behavior. Klauber (1943) discussed sexual dimorphism. Climbing abilities were noted by Grinnell and Grinnell (1907), Pickwell (1947), and Cunningham (1955), and thermal aspects by Miller and Stebbins (1964), Brattstrom (1965), and Hammerson (1979). Smith (1941) presented phylogenetic relationships of *M. lateralis* to other members of the genus.

• REMARKS. Schmidt (1953) restricted the type-locality of *M. lateralis* to San Diego but examination of the holotype indicates that it is not from the San Diego area. Heermann collected many of his herpetological specimens from the Sierra Nevada foothills (Hallowell, 1853) and the holotype was probably from this general area.

• ETYMOLOGY. The specific name *lateralis* (Latin) means of the side and apparently alludes to the conspicuous lateral stripes. The subspecific name *euryxanthus* is derived from the Greek *eury-*, meaning wide or broad, and *xanthus*, yellow, which refers to the wide yellow-orange lateral stripes.

1. *Masticophis lateralis lateralis* (Hallowell)

Leptophis lateralis Hallowell, 1853:237. See species synonymy.

Bascanium taeniatum laterale: Cope, 1875:40.

Bascanium laterale laterale: Cope, 1892:628.

Zamenis lateralis lateralis (part): Cope, 1900:807.

• DEFINITION. A subspecies with an olive brown, blackish olive, or dark brown dorsum, narrow cream or pale yellow dorsolateral stripes $\frac{1}{4}$ -1 scale in width, and heavy spotting on the venter of the head and neck.

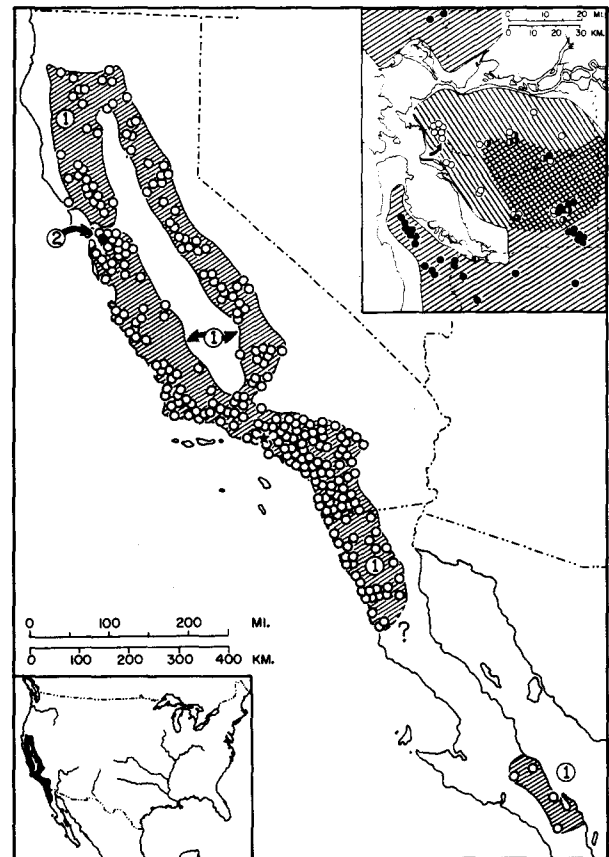
2. *Masticophis lateralis euryxanthus* Riemer

Masticophis lateralis euryxanthus Riemer, 1954:45. Type-locality, "Berkeley Hills, Berkeley, Alameda County, California."

Holotype, Mus. Vert. Zool. 50391, adult female, collected by

A. Mossman, 15 August 1950 (examined by author).

• DEFINITION. A subspecies with a sooty black dorsum, broad yellow-orange dorsolateral stripes $1\frac{1}{2}$ -2 scales in width, and virtual



MAP. Solid circle marks type-locality of *M. l. euryxanthus*; type-locality of *M. l. lateralis* is too indefinite to plot (see REMARKS). Open circles indicate other localities. Question mark indicates uncertain range boundary. Star marks Pleistocene fossil locality. Inset: map of San Francisco Bay region showing localities for *M. l. euryxanthus* (open circles, with arrow indicating type-locality), *M. l. lateralis* (solid circles), and intergrades (half-filled circles). Overlapping shading patterns indicate presumed zone of intergradation.

absence of spotting on the venter of the head and neck. A heavy suffusion of orange-rufus is present on the anterior pale areas.

COMMENT

Soulé and Sloan (1966) consider *M. barbouri* to be a subspecies of *M. lateralis*, whereas Ortenburger (1928), Cliff (1954), and Savage (1960) consider all three snakes to be distinct species. The group is currently under study.

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