

Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

WILSON, LARRY DAVID. 1985. *Tantilla andinista*.*Tantilla andinista* Wilson and Mena

Tantilla andinista Wilson and Mena, 1980:21. Type-locality, "5 km E Alausí, Prov. Chimborazo, Ecuador, elevation 2600–2750 m." Holotype, Univ. Kansas Mus. Natur. Hist. 135209, adult female, collected 9 June 1970 by Thomas H. Fritts (examined by author).

● CONTENT. No subspecies are recognized.

● DEFINITION AND DIAGNOSIS. A species of *Tantilla* with a narrow dark middorsal stripe confined to the middle of the middorsal scale row and a narrow pale lateral stripe confined to the dorsal half of scale row 3. The dorsal ground color is tan. The venter is immaculate cream (white with a greenish tint in life). The head pattern consists of "a large amount of pale markings on the head on a dark brown background," including "an extensive pale marking on the snout, continuing posteriorly over the supraocular and anterolateral corner of the parietal downward onto the postoculars, anterior portion of the anterior temporal and supralabials 4, 5, and 6. The dark head cap is followed by a wide middorsally-divided pale nuchal band, then a dark nape band [4 scales long], and, finally, by a pale neck band [about 1½ scales long]" (Wilson and Mena, 1980). Ventral and subcaudal counts are 157 and 50, respectively. *Tantilla andinista* may be distinguished from all congeners by possession of a dark middorsal stripe confined to the middorsal scale row, a narrow pale lateral stripe confined to the upper half of scale row 3, a tan dorsal ground color, a head pattern of much pale blotching on a dark brown background followed in succession by a middorsally-divided pale nuchal collar, a long dark band, a pale neck band, 157 ventrals, and 50 subcaudals.

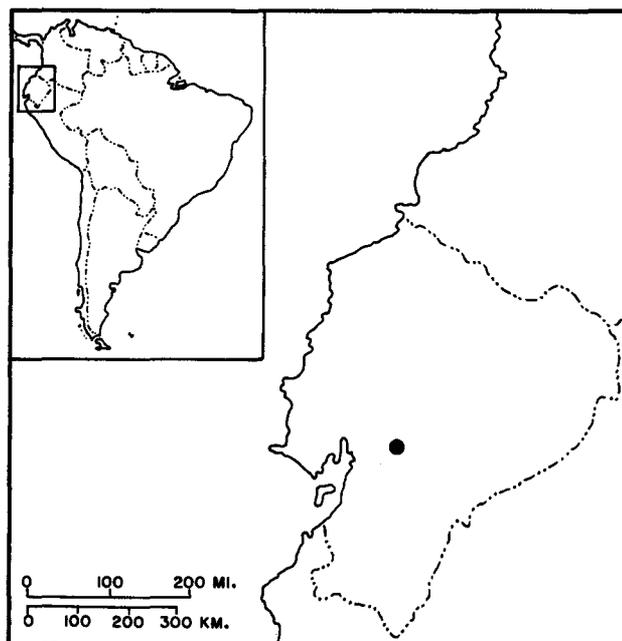
● DESCRIPTIONS. Only the original description of Wilson and Mena (1980) exists.

● ILLUSTRATIONS. Wilson and Mena (1980) provided pen-and-ink drawings of lateral, dorsal, and ventral views of the head and anterior body, as well as the dorsal color pattern.

● DISTRIBUTION. *Tantilla andinista* is known only from the type locality at a high elevation in the Alausí Basin of south-central Ecuador.

● FOSSIL RECORD. None.

● PERTINENT LITERATURE. All the literature on this species is in Wilson and Mena's (1980) revision of the *Tantilla melanocephala* group, except for its listing in a summary of the genus (Wilson, 1982).



MAP. Solid circle indicates the type- and only known locality.

● ETYMOLOGY. The name *andinista* is from the Spanish, meaning "wanderer among the Andes," in reference to the distribution of this snake.

LITERATURE CITED

- Wilson, Larry David. 1982. *Tantilla*. Cat. Amer. Amph. Rept. 307.1–307.4.
 —, and Cesar E. Mena. 1980. Systematics of the *melanocephala* group of the colubrid snake genus *Tantilla*. San Diego Soc. Natur. Hist. Mem. (11):1–58.

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