

Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

Wilson, Larry David. 1990. *Tantilla tayrae*.

***Tantilla tayrae* Wilson**

Tantilla tayrae Wilson, 1983:54. Type-locality, "Finca San Jerónimo, 7.5 km N (by rd.) Cacaohatán [=Cacahoatán or Cacahuatán], elevation 760 m, Volcán Tacaná, Municipio de Unión Juárez, Chiapas, México." Holotype, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley 159203, adult male, collected 30 July 1978 by Robert L. Sieb (examined by author).

- **Content.** No subspecies are recognized.
- **Definition.** A species of *Tantilla* with no pale middorsal stripe or the barest indication of one and no pale lateral stripe or the barest indication of one on adjacent halves of dorsal scale rows 3 and 4 (only on the anterior portion of the body). The dorsal ground color is brown. The venter is cream anteriorly grading to pinkish orange (red-orange in life?) on the posterior portion of the body, with a very dark brown spot situated on the extreme anterolateral edge of each ventral scale. The head pattern consists of a poorly-developed, narrow pale nuchal collar confined to scales posterior to the parietals, broadly divided middorsally, and crossing the last supralabial laterally. The remainder of the head is brown to dark brown, except for pale pre- and postocular spots. Ventrals and subcaudals range from 140 to 154 and 44 to 51, respectively.

• **Diagnosis.** *Tantilla tayrae* may be distinguished from all congeners by possession of a subdued, medially-divided pale nuchal collar confined to scales posterior to the parietals, a poorly-developed or nonexistent pale middorsal and lateral stripes (but the latter, when present, located on adjacent halves of rows 3 and 4 of the anterior portion of the body), a brown dorsal ground color, 140-154 ventrals, and 44-51 subcaudals.

• **Descriptions.** Descriptions of the available material of this species are in Wilson (1983, 1984).

• **Illustrations.** Wilson (1983) provided black-and-white

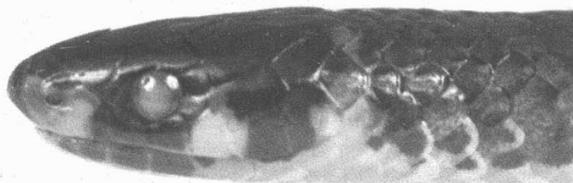
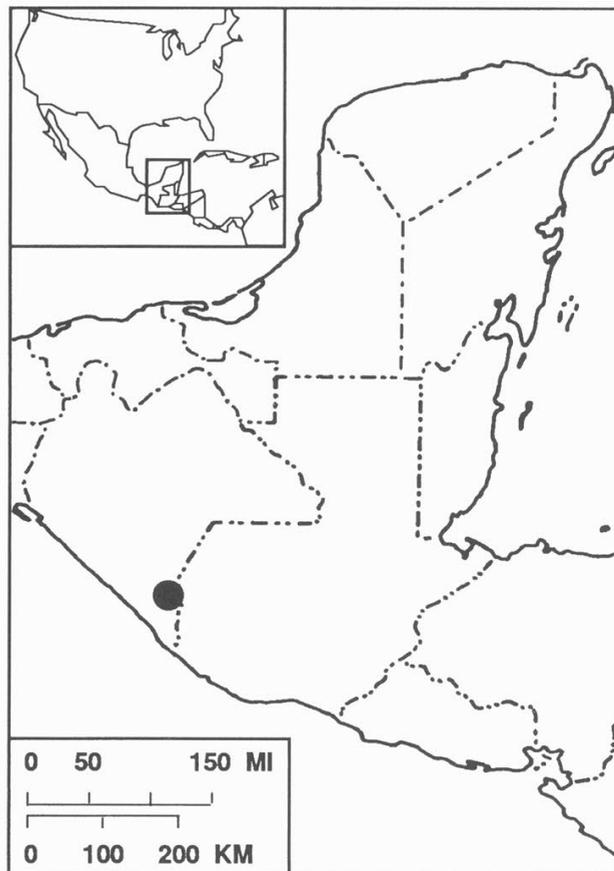


Figure. Lateral and dorsal views of the head of the holotype of *Tantilla tayrae* (from Wilson, 1983).



Map. Solid circle marks the type-locality.

photographs of the lateral and dorsal views of the head and anterior body of this species.

• **Distribution.** *Tantilla tayrae* is known from two localities at moderate elevations (760 to 960 m) on the slopes of Volcán Tacaná on the Pacific versant of Chiapas, México.

• **Fossil Record.** None.

• **Pertinent Literature.** Wilson (1983) described the species, discussed its relationships with other members of the *Tantilla taeniata* group, presented available ecological information, and placed the species in a revised key to the members of the *taeniata* group. Wilson (1984) provided information on an additional series of specimens, including those from a new locality.

• **Etymology.** The name *tayrae* is a patronym in honor of the original describer's daughter, Tayra Barbara.

Literature Cited

- Wilson, Larry David. 1983. A new species of *Tantilla* of the *taeniata* group from Chiapas, México. *J. Herpetol.* 17(1):54-59.
 ———. 1984. Additional notes on colubrid snakes of the genus *Tantilla* from tropical America. *Herpetol. Rev.* 15(1):8-10.

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