

Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

Henderson, R.W. 1993. *Corallus*.*Corallus* Daudin

Corallus Daudin, 1803:434. Type-species (by monotypy): *Corallus obtusirostris* Daudin = *Boa Enydris* Linnaeus (1758) = *Corallus enydris* (Linnaeus).

Xipbosoma Wagler in Spix, 1824:40. Type-species (by subsequent designation [Fitzinger 1843:24]): *Boa canina* Linnaeus, 1758 = *Corallus caninus* (Linnaeus).

Chrysensis Gray, 1860:132. Type-species (by monotypy): *Chrysensis batesii* Gray = *Boa canina* Linnaeus, 1758 = *Corallus caninus* (Linnaeus).

Xenoboa Hoge, 1954:27. Type-species (by monotypy): *Xenoboa cropanii* Hoge = *Corallus cropanii* (Hoge).

• **Content.** Four species are recognized: *Corallus annulatus*, *C. caninus*, *C. cropanii*, and *C. enydris*. See Comment.

• **Definition.** In general habitus, species of *Corallus* are boids with laterally compressed bodies (only slightly so in *C. cropanii*), extremely long anterior maxillary teeth, some labials with deep pits, large chunky heads, strongly prehensile tails (*C. cropanii* may be an exception), and exhibiting little sexual dimorphism in traditional meristic characters (to date, only males are known in *C. cropanii*). Dorsal scales are in 29-77 rows at midbody, ventrals 179-294, and subcaudals 51-141. Some supralabials and infralabials have deep pits.

Dorsal ground color is extremely variable, ranging through yellow, red-orange, red-brown, tan, khaki, beige, milk chocolate brown, dark brown, taupe, gray, bright green, olive green, and gray-

green. Dorsally, snakes may be patternless to heavily patterned with small flecks, rhombs or some modification of a rhomboidal shape, hourglasses, spades, or small triangles. Pattern elements have either angular or rounded edges. The ventral ground color is white, cream, beige, bright yellow, or dingy yellow. The venter may be immaculate to heavily patterned, and the posterior portion of the venter is almost invariably more heavily patterned than the anterior portion.

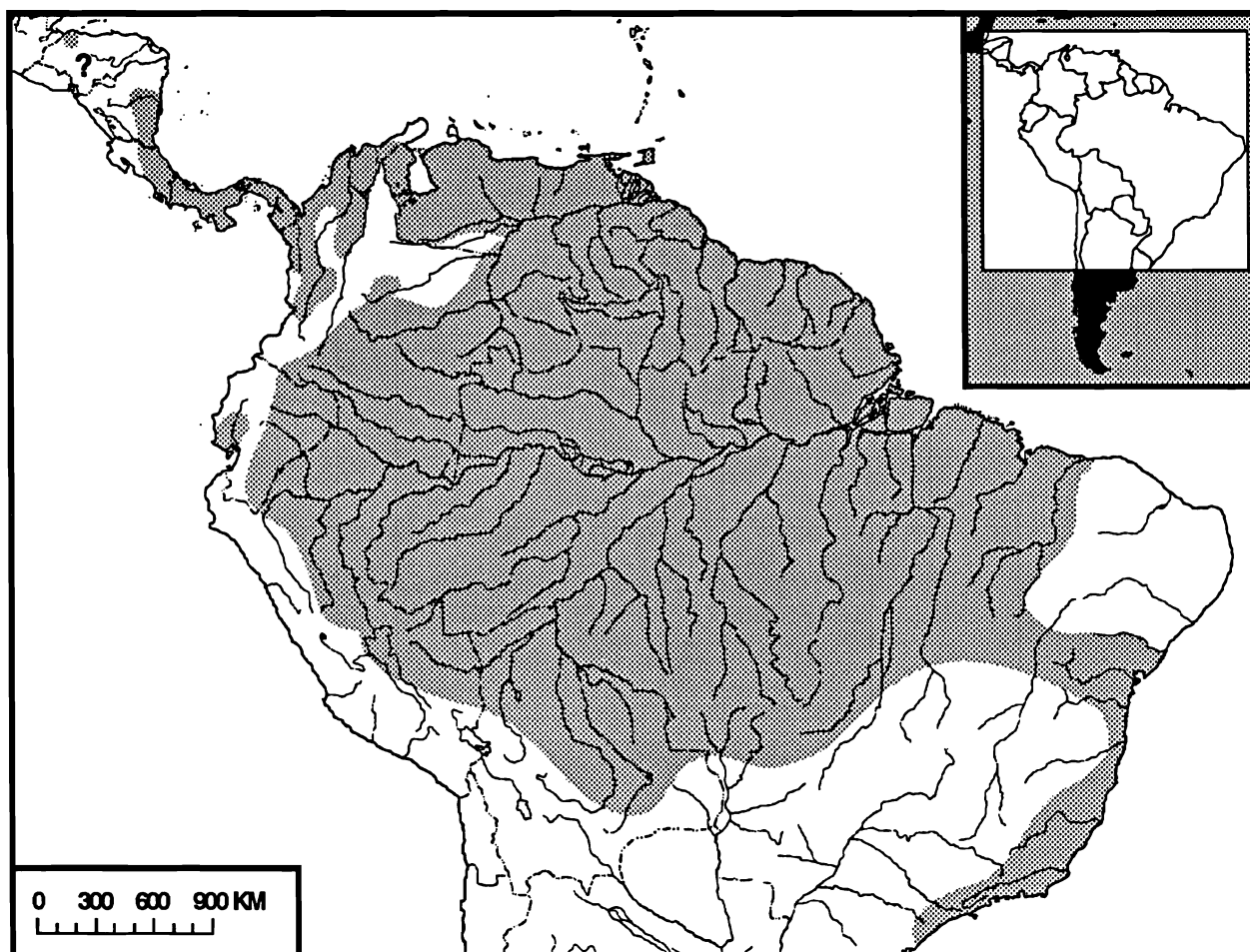
• **Diagnosis.** *Corallus* is characterized by a combination of long, usually straight, anterior maxillary teeth and labial scales often with deep pits. *Epicrates cenchria* has long, curved anterior maxillary teeth and shallow labial pits. Subcaudals in all species of *Corallus* except *C. cropanii* are usually >65, but usually <65 in *E. cenchria*. *Corallus cropanii* has <40 dorsal scale rows at midbody, whereas *E. cenchria* has >40. No other New World boine can be confused with any species of *Corallus*.

• **Descriptions, Illustrations, Fossil Record, Pertinent Literature.** See species accounts.

• **Distribution.** Species of *Corallus* are found on the neotropical mainland from Honduras to southeastern Brazil (just south of the Tropic of Capricorn). Insular distribution (*C. enydris* only) includes islands off the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of Panamá, Isla Margarita, Trinidad, Tobago, the West Indian islands of St. Vincent, several of the Grenadines, and Grenada, and Ilha Grande off southeastern Brazil.

• **Key to Species.** The number in parentheses following the species name refers to the Catalogue account number.

1. a. Dorsal scale rows at midbody <35; subcaudals <60 in males (females unknown) *C. cropanii* (575)
- b. Dorsal scale rows at midbody >35; subcaudals >65 2



Map. Shaded area represents the approximate range of the genus *Corallus*. Disjunct areas indicate presumed or possibly isolated populations. The question mark indicates uncertainty regarding an exact locality in Honduras.

2. a. Nasals almost always in contact; subcaudals 99-141; dorsal scale rows at midbody 37-63; ventrals 250-294; loreolabials usually in 2 rows (rarely 3); dorsal ground color variable (yellow, red-orange, red-brown, dark brown, taupe, gray) *C. enydris* (576)
 b. Nasals usually not in contact; subcaudals 65-87 3
3. a. Dorsal scale rows at midbody 50-57; ventrals 251-268; subcaudals 79-87; dorsal ground color red-brown, red-orange, brown, or taupe *C. annulatus* (573)
 b. Dorsal scale rows at midbody 63-77; ventrals 186-209; subcaudals 65-74; dorsal ground color yellow to red-brown in juveniles and green in adults; usually with white dorsal markings *C. caninus* (574)

• **Etymology.** The name *Corallus* is derived from the Latin word "*cora*", possibly in reference to dorsal coloration in some individuals of *C. enydris*; this coloration is especially common in juveniles and frequently lost in ontogeny.

• **Comment.** Based on a large suite of characters (primarily skeletal), Kluge (1991) synonymized *Xenoboa* with *Corallus* to avoid recognition of a paraphyletic taxon (i.e., *Corallus*), inasmuch as he regarded *X. cropanii* and *C. caninus* as sister species.

Literature Cited

Daudin, F.M. 1803. Caractères des vingt-trois genres qui composent l'ordre des Ophidiens. Mag. Encyclo. (An. 8), 5:433-438.

- Fitzinger, L.J.F.J. 1843. Systema reptilium. Fasciculus primus. Amblyglossae. Braumüller et Seidel Bibliopolas, Vindobonae.
- Gray, J.E. 1860. Description of a new genus of Boidae discovered by Mr. Bates on the Upper Amazon. Proc. Zool. Soc. London 1860: 132-133.
- Hoge, A.R. 1954 [1953]. A new genus and species of Boinae from Brazil. *Xenoboa cropanii*, gen. nov., sp. nov. Mem. Inst. Butantan, São Paulo 25:27-34.
- Kluge, A.G. 1991. Boinae snake phylogeny and research cycles. Misc. Publ. Mus. Zool., Univ. Michigan (178):iv + 58 p.
- Linnaeus, C. 1758. Systema naturae per regna tria naturae, secundum classes, ordines, genera, species, cum characteribus, differentilis, synonymis, locis. Tomus I. Editio decima, Reformata. Laurentii Salvii, Holmiae.
- Spix, J.B. von. 1824. Serpentes brasiliensium species novae ou histoire naturelle des espèces nouvelles de serpens, recueillies et observées pendant le voyage dans l'intérieur du Brésil dans les années 1817, 1818, 1819, 1820, exécuté par ordre de sa majesté le Roi de Bavière. Typis Franc. Seraph. Hübschmanni, Monachii.

Robert W. Henderson, Section of Vertebrate Zoology, Milwaukee Public Museum, 800 W. Wells Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53233.

Primary editor for this account, Larry David Wilson.

Published 30 November 1993 and Copyright © 1993 by the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles.