

Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

WILSON, LARRY DAVID. 1985. *Tantilla reticulata*.

Tantilla reticulata Cope

T[antilla]. reticulata Cope, 1860:77. Type-locality, "Cocuyas de Veraguas, New Grenada" (=Cocuyas, Panamá). Holotype originally in the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia but now presumed lost (E. V. Malnate, pers. comm.).

Microdromus virgatus Günther, 1873:17. Type-locality, "Costa Rica, near Cartago [Prov. Cartago]." Syntypes, British Mus. (Natural History) 1946.1.8.73-76, all females except BMNH 1946.1.8.75, sold to museum by Mr. Janson in November, 1871 (examined by author).

Homalocranium sexfasciatum Fischer, 1882:225. Type-locality, "Costarica." Holotype, Naturhistorisches Museums in Bremen 457, sex unknown, sent to museum by Consul Lahmann, date of collection unknown (not examined by author).

Homalocranium virgatum: Bocourt, 1883:585.

Tantilla sexfasciata: Cope, 1887:83.

Tantilla virgata: Cope, 1887:83.

Homalocranium reticulatum: Günther, 1895:152.

• CONTENT. No subspecies are recognized.

• DEFINITION AND DIAGNOSIS. "A species of *Tantilla* with a multilineate dorsal pattern. A pale middorsal stripe is present, occupying the middorsal scale row and adjacent halves of the paravertebral rows (row 7). Scale row 6 is brown and is bounded below by a dark stripe on the upper half of row 5. A pale brown field is present on row 4 and adjacent halves of rows 3 and 5 and is bounded below by a dark stripe on adjacent halves of rows 2 and 3. The lower half of scale row 2 is cream and row 1 is pale brown. Dark pigment is present on the anterolateral portions of each scale in the pale areas, presenting a reticulate appearance. A dark brown stripe extends the length of the lateral area of the ventrals. The head pattern consists of an incomplete pale nuchal collar outlined with dark pigment on all sides. Ventrals and subcaudals range from 158 to 173 and 58 to 70, respectively" (Wilson, 1982). *Tantilla reticulata* may be distinguished from all congeners by possession of a multilineate dorsum consisting of pale and dark stripes on a ground color of varying shades of pale brown and brown, a dark stripe on the lateral edges of the ventrals, and reticulate patterning in the ground color fields.

• DESCRIPTIONS. The most recent and comprehensive descriptions of this species are in Wilson and Meyer (1971) and Wilson (1982).

• ILLUSTRATIONS. The best illustrations of this species are in Wilson and Meyer (1971—pen and ink drawings of head and dorsal pattern).

• DISTRIBUTION. *Tantilla reticulata* occurs at low and moderate elevations (ca. 0–1430 m) of the Caribbean versant of Central America from southeastern Nicaragua to Panamá and the Caribbean and Pacific versants of northwestern Colombia.

• FOSSIL RECORD. None.

• PERTINENT LITERATURE. Most work on this species has dealt with systematics. Wilson and Meyer (1971) revised the taxonomy of this species in their treatment of the *taeniata* group. Wilson (1982) summarized information on external morphology, geographic range, and habitat preferences. Comments on relationships are in Wilson and Meyer (1971) and Wilson (1983).

• REMARKS. The spotty distribution of this snake is in need of better delineation.

• ETYMOLOGY. The name *reticulata* is derived from the Latin *reticulatus* meaning "made like a net," in reference to the reticulate pattern on the pattern fields.

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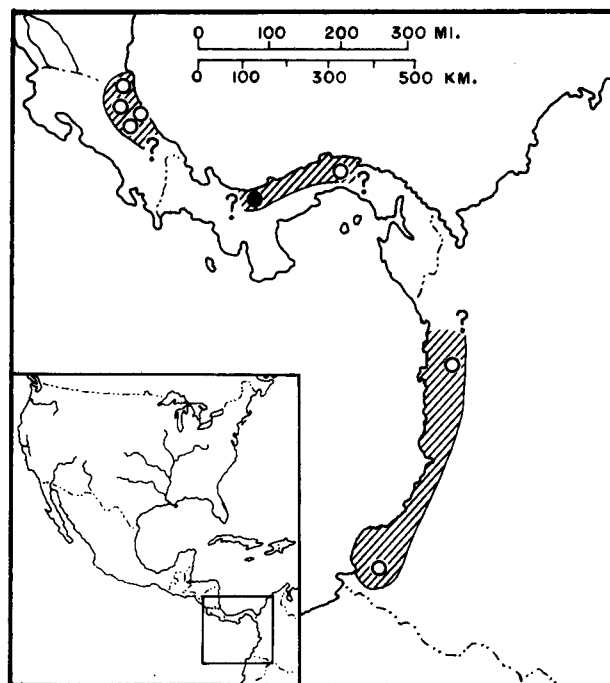
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MAP. Solid circle indicates type-locality; open circles indicate other localities. Question marks indicate uncertain gaps in known range.