

## Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

WILSON, LARRY DAVID. 1986. *Tantilla alticola*.*Tantilla alticola* (Boulenger)*Homalocranium jani* Günther, 1895: 148 (part).*Homalocranium fuscum*: Boulenger, 1896:220 (part - in error).

*Homalocranium alticola* Boulenger, 1903:353. Type-locality, "Santa Rita, north of Medellin, Colombia, altitude 9000 feet." Syntypes, British Museum (Natural History) 1946.1.8.63-65 (formerly BMNH 98.10.27.7-9), first two males, third a female (?), date of collection unknown (accessioned 27 October 1898), collected by A. E. Pratt (first two syntypes examined by author).

*Homalocranium coralliventre* Boulenger, 1913:1035. Type-locality, "Peña Lisa, Condoto, altitude 300 feet," Depto. Chocó, Colombia. Syntypes, British Museum (Natural History) 1946.1.8.83-84 (formerly BMNH 1913.11.12.60-61), both apparently males, presented to museum in November, 1913, collected by Dr. H. G. F. Spurrell (not examined by author).

*Tantilla alticola*: Amaral, 1929:46.

*Tantilla costaricensis* Taylor, 1954:766. Type-locality, "Cervantes, Cartago Province, Costa Rica, elevation about 4200 ft." Holotype, University of Kansas Museum of Natural History 30995, adult male, collected 30 August 1951 by Edward H. Taylor (examined by author).

- CONTENT. No subspecies are recognized.

● DEFINITION AND DIAGNOSIS. "A species of *Tantilla* with a brown to dark brown dorsum, with or without a slight paling of color on the middorsal scale row and rows 3 and 4 or 4 and 5. The head pattern consists of a pale snout to the level of the posterior portion of the prefrontals, a dark head cap followed by a pale nuchal band beginning on the posterior portion of the parietals and extending one to one and one-half middorsal scales posterior to the parietals. Pre- and postocular pale spots are present. The venter is cream to bright coral red. Ventrals and subcaudals range from 128 to 1[4]5 and 32 to 60, respectively" (Wilson, 1982). *Tantilla alticola* may be distinguished from all congeners by possession of a brown to dark brown dorsum with or without a slight paling of color on the middorsal rows and rows 3 and 4 or 4 and 5, a pale venter, a pale snout marking, a pale nuchal collar following a head cap more-or-less the color of the dorsum of the body, pale pre- and postocular spots, 128 to 145 ventrals, and 32 to 60 subcaudals.

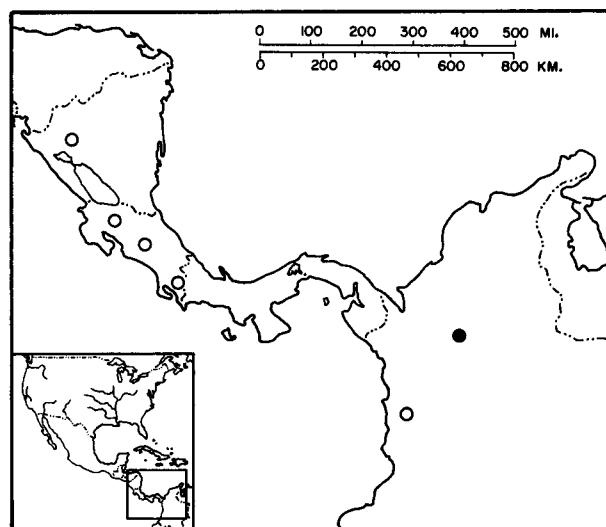
● DESCRIPTIONS. The most complete description is that of Wilson (1982).

● ILLUSTRATIONS. Boulenger (1913) presented a pen-and-ink drawing of the dorsum of the head and anterior body and line drawings of the dorsal and lateral views of the head of this species. Wilson (1982) provided black-and-white photographs of lateral and dorsal views of the head and anterior body.

● DISTRIBUTION. *Tantilla alticola* occurs at low to intermediate elevations (91-2743 m) of Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and northwestern Colombia.

- FOSSIL RECORD. None.

● PERTINENT LITERATURE. Until recently, the taxonomy and distribution of this species were poorly understood. Wilson (1982), however, demonstrated the conspecificity of several populations



MAP. Solid circle marks the type-locality; hollow circles indicate other records.

ranging from Nicaragua to Colombia which had previously been allocated to a variety of nominal taxa of purported disparate relationships. His paper should be consulted as a guide to the meager literature of this still poorly-known species.

● ETYMOLOGY. The name *alticola* is derived from the Latin *altus*, meaning "high," and *colere*, meaning "to dwell," in reference to the high elevations whence came the syntypes of this species.

## LITERATURE CITED

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