

## Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

Wilson, Larry David. 1988. *Tantilla deppei*.

***Tantilla deppei* (Bocourt)**

*Homalocranium deppei* Bocourt, 1883:584. Type-locality, "Mexique," restricted to Huitzilac, Morelos, México, by Davis and Smith, 1953: 138. Lectoholotype, Mus. Hist. Natur. Paris 54, an adult male, collected by M. Ghiesbreght, date of collection unknown (examined by author).

*Tantilla deppei*: Cope, 1887:83.

*Homalocranium deppei*: Günther, 1895:151.

*Homalocranium miniatum*: Boulenger, 1896:222 (in error; nec Cope).

• **Content.** No subspecies are recognized.

• **Definition and Diagnosis.** A species of *Tantilla* with a dark middorsal stripe occupying as little as all of the middorsal row to as much as the middorsal row and adjacent halves of the paravertebral rows and a dark lateral stripe on dorsal scale row 3 or rows 2 and 3. The dorsal ground color is tan to brown. The venter is immaculate cream. The head pattern consists of a spatulate dark anterior extension of the pale middorsal stripe flanked by narrow longitudinal pale markings followed by a short pale middorsally-interrupted nuchal collar. Lateral to the narrow pale head markings is "a dark band that begins on the posterior temporal and passes anteriorly across the anterior temporal and upper edges of the supralabials, and onto the preocular and nasal scale. The remainder of the supralabials are cream" (Wilson and Meyer, 1981). Supralabials are usually seven and there are two postoculars. Ventrals and subcaudals range from 142 to 168 and 43 to 60, respectively. *Tantilla deppei* may be distinguished from all congeners by having a middorsal dark stripe, a lateral dark stripe on row 3 or rows 2 and 3, a pale-outlined dark spatulate head figure followed by a short, middorsally-divided pale nuchal collar, 2 postoculars, usually 7 supralabials, 142-168 ventrals, and 43-60 subcaudals.

• **Descriptions.** A summary description was provided by Smith (1942) and tabular notes on differential characteristics by Hartweg (1944). The most complete description is in Wilson and Meyer (1981).

• **Illustrations.** Wilson and Meyer (1981) published black-and-white photographs of lateral and dorsal views of the head and a pen-and-ink drawing of the dorsal color pattern.

• **Distribution.** *Tantilla deppei* occurs at intermediate elevations (1524 to 2438 m) in the Mexican state of Morelos (Pacific versant).

• **Fossil Record.** None.

• **Pertinent Literature.** The most complete account of this snake is in Wilson and Meyer (1981). Ancillary descriptive and/or distributional data are in Smith (1942), Hartweg (1944), and Davis and Smith (1953). Female reproductive morphology was studied by Clark (1970). The biogeographic significance of the distribution of this snake was discussed by Duellman (1965).

• **Etymology.** The name *deppei* is a patronym in honor of Ferdinand Deppe, a 19th-Century German collector in México.

**Literature Cited**

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**Map.** Solid circle indicates the type-locality. Open circles mark other localities.

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Primary editor for this account, Jaime D. Villa.

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