

Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

Wilson, L.D. 1992. *Tantilla nigra*.

***Tantilla nigra* (Boulenger)**

Homalocranium nigrum Boulenger, 1914:816. Type-locality, "near Peña Lisa, Condoto," (5°06'N, 76°37'W), Depto. Chocó, Colombia, elevation ca. 91 m. Holotype, British Museum (Nat. Hist.) 1946.1.8.69, female (?), received by museum in May, 1914 from Dr. H. G. F. Spurrell (not examined by author).

Tantilla nigra: Amaral, 1929:221.

- **Content.** No subspecies are recognized.

- **Definition.** A species of *Tantilla* with a black dorsum and venter. The head pattern consists of a pair of yellow nuchal spots on either side of the dorsal midline just posterior to the parietals, narrowly separated laterally from a larger yellow spot located just behind the oral rictus, and small pre- and postocular pale spots. The postocular is single. Ventral and subcaudal counts are 137 and 64, respectively (Wilson, 1984).

- **Diagnosis.** *Tantilla nigra* may be distinguished from all congeners by possession of a black dorsum and venter and two pale nuchal spots.

- **Descriptions.** The original description is in Boulenger (1914); supplemental descriptions are in Wilson (1987) and Pérez and Moreno (1988).

- **Illustrations.** Boulenger (1914) provided pen-and-ink drawings of dorsal and lateral views of the head and anterior body of the holotype. Wilson (1987) included black-and-white photographs of the dorsal and lateral views of the head and anterior portion of the body.

- **Distribution.** *Tantilla nigra* is known only from the type locality at a low elevation on the Pacific versant of central Colombia.

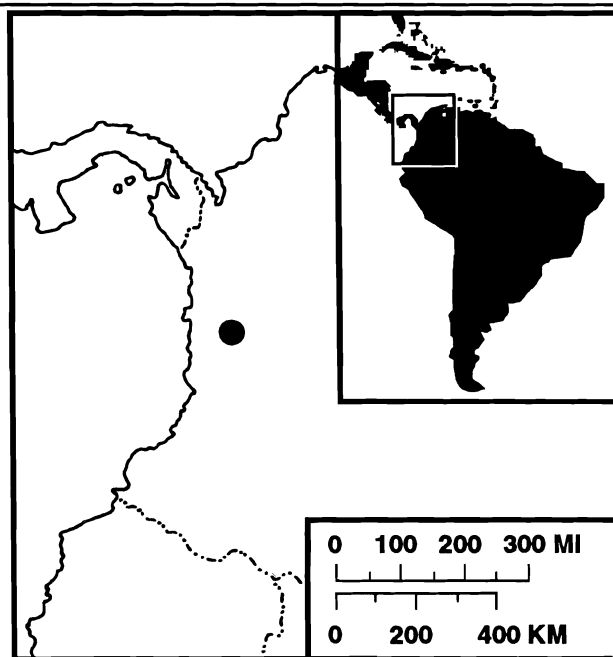
- **Fossil Record.** None.

- **Pertinent Literature.** Little has been published about this species, known only from the holotype, beyond the original description (Boulenger, 1914), a note by Wilson (1984) correcting some data published by Boulenger, a redescription by Wilson (1987), and the inclusion of the name in a variety of lists (e.g., Amaral, 1929).

- **Etymology.** The name *nigra* is derived from the Latin *niger*, meaning "black," in reference to the dorsal and ventral coloration of this species.

Literature Cited.

- Amaral, A. do. 1929. Estudos sobre ophidios neotrópicos. XVIII. Lista remissiva dos ophidios da região neotrópica. Mem. Inst. Butantan 4:129-271.
- Boulenger, G.A. 1914. On a second collection of batrachians and reptiles made by Dr. H. G. F. Spurrell, F.Z.S., in the Choco, Colombia. Proc. Zool. Soc. London 1914:813-817.
- Pérez, C. and A.G. Moreno. 1988. Ofidios de Colombia. Mus. Reg. Sci. Nat. Torino Monogr. VI.
- Wilson, L.D. 1984. Additional notes on colubrid snakes of the Genus



Map. Solid circle marks the type-locality.

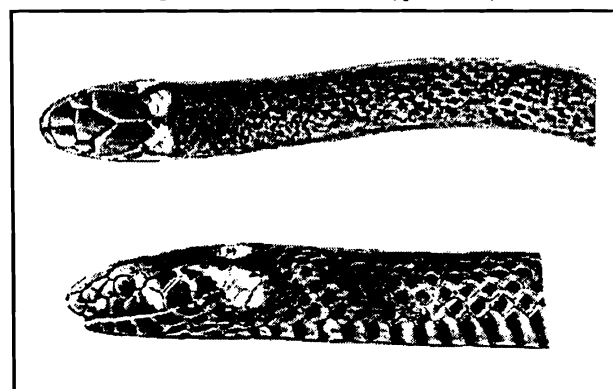


Figure 1. *Tantilla nigra*, from Boulenger (1914).

Tantilla from tropical America. Herpetol. Rev. 15:8-10.

- . 1987. A résumé of the colubrid snakes of the genus *Tantilla* of South America. Milwaukee Pub. Mus. Contrib. Biol. Geol. (68): 1-35.

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