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The Herpetofauna of the Mexican State of Aguascalientes



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Remarks: The specific status of a single Aguascalientes specimen allied to *Crotalus pricei* has been questioned by several authors (HARRIS & SIMMONS 1978, KLAUBER 1956, 1972, MCCRANIE 1981, WILSON & MCCRANIE 1979). CAMPBELL & LAMAR (1989) allocated this population to the species *C. pricei*.

The species is known from the state only in the pine-oak woodlands of the Sierra Fría. The UMMZ specimen is from an imprecise locality, and the locality given for a recently collected specimen is also imprecise (CAMPBELL & LAMAR 1989). Elevations given for these two localities are 2500 and 2758 m, respectively. VÁZQUEZ DÍAZ & QUINTERO DÍAZ (1997a) also reported this species from imprecise localities in the northwestern portion of the state.

Specimens examined (1): Sierra Fría, W of Rincón de Romos, UMMZ 110878.

Literature records: Vicinity of Congoja (CAMPBELL & LAMAR 1989: Fig. 399, no specimen number given).

***Crotalus scutulatus* (KENNICOTT)**
(Plate 5H)

Caudisona scutulata KENNICOTT 1861: 207 (type locality not given).

Crotalus scutulatus: COPE, in YARROW 1875: 533, MORAFKA 1977: 311, VÁZQUEZ DÍAZ & QUINTERO DÍAZ 1997a: 134.

Crotalus scutulatus scutulatus: BANTA 1962: 104, PRICE 1982: 291.1.

Range: Mojave Desert in California, southern Nevada and extreme southwestern Utah southeastward through most of Arizona, USA, and northern Sonora, the Chihuahuan Desert, and the southern part of the Mexican Plateau to southern Puebla.

Remarks: A freshly killed DOR adult male (UTA R-18360) had the following coloration: dorsum pale olive-green, with olive-brown blotches outlined with pale olive-tan; venter pale olive-cream.

Crotalus scutulatus is known in the state from the northern, northeastern, and south-central portions between ca. 1900-2070 m elevation. We collected a single adult DOR from a dirt road at 2070 m elevation in prickly pear-mesquite-agave habitat. The snake contained an adult *Sceloporus spinosus* in its stomach. Many of the other localities for this species are in areas that were under heavy cultivation during our 1979 trip.

Specimens examined (11): 1.6 km N Cañada Honda, AMNH 98840; 1.6 km S Cañada Honda, AMNH 98841; 2.3 km SW Cañada Honda, CAS 19507; 6.3 km SW Cañada Honda, CAS 19505; 5.6 km SW Cañada Honda, CAS 19506; 9.7 km NE Ciudad Aguascalientes, AMNH 98842-43; 8.0 km NE Ciudad Aguascalientes, AMNH 98844; 36.8 km SW Loreto, Zacatecas (= nr. Cañada Honda), UIMNH 93435; 3.2 km NW Presa

Jocoqui, UIMNH 27154; 3.2 km NNW Tepezalá, UTA R-18360.

Literature records: 4.8 km NW Cañada Honda, CAS 87398; 8.0 km NW Cañada Honda, CAS 87400 (BANTA 1962).

Species of probable occurrence

Future collecting in Aguascalientes will probably reveal the presence of several species of amphibians and reptiles not heretofore recorded from the state. We consider the list provided below to be conservative and the species discussed almost certainly to occur within Aguascalientes.

Pseudoeurycea bellii (GRAY). WILSON & MCCRANIE (1979) recorded this species from the pine-oak woodlands of the Sierra Morones in southern Zacatecas. This locality is only ca. 30 airline km W of the southwestern portion of the Aguascalientes state line. There are several oak-covered mesas in this area of Aguascalientes in which this species is likely to occur. The species probably occurs in the Sierra del Laurel as well. This species is known from several isolated populations in the northern and western portions of its broad geographical range. The presence of disjunct populations in southwestern Aguascalientes is to be expected.

Eumeces brevirostris (GÜNTHER). This species occurs in the pine-oak woodlands of the Sierra Madre Occidental, Sierra Madre Oriental, and the Cordillera Volcánica (DIXON 1969, ROBINSON 1979). It is likely that this species also occurs in the pine-oak forests of the Sierras Fría and del Laurel.

Lampropeltis mexicana (GARMAN). This species has been collected both to the northwest and southeast of Aguascalientes (GARSTKA 1982). LINER & DUNDEE (1977) recorded a specimen of this species from 2.7 km S Trancoso, Zacatecas, which is only ca. 27 km N of the Aguascalientes state line (this is probably the Zacatecas record mapped by GARSTKA 1982, and, if so, his dot is misplaced on the map). *Lampropeltis mexicana* probably occurs in the numerous rocky canyons of the northwestern portion of the state.

Masticophis taeniatus (HALLOWELL). This wide ranging species has been recorded from a locality in northeastern Jalisco that is only ca. 15 km SE of the Aguascalientes state line (CAMPER & DIXON 1994). The species is also known from north of Aguascalientes (CAMPER 1996b, CAMPER & DIXON 1994), and should occur in the arid eastern portion of the state.

Rhadinaea laureata (GÜNTHER). This species is known from the pine-oak woodlands of the Sierra Madre Occidental in Durango and Zacatecas and the Cordillera Volcánica in central México (MYERS 1974, WEBB 1982). This species is likely to occur in the pine-oak forests of the Sierras Fría and del Laurel.

Rhinocheilus lecontei BAIRD & GIRARD. FROST & AIRD (1978b) recorded this species in southern Zacatecas