

context in which they use their rattle. I already knew from previous researchers that the morphology of *C. catalinensis* was reduced such that few, if any, individuals retained rattle segments. The same was suspected to be true for *C. lorenzensis* and *C. estebanensis*, but how much they were reduced and whether or not they were reduced in a similar fashion, was unknown. Also unknown was the physiological capacity of island species to sustain rattling. Anyone who has ever encountered very many western diamondback rattlesnakes, *C. atrox*, knows that they are quite cantankerous and can rattle for hours, literally. Researchers have learned that this is because rattlesnakes have specialized muscles, called tailshaker muscles, that can contract and relax at up to 100 times per second. This rapid vibration of the style drives the rattle to produce sound. Whether or not the tailshaker muscles of island species showed reduction or alteration in their special physiology, as evidenced by a slower rattle, was undetermined. By choosing the right variables to measure, I could answer these questions by comparing my data collected in the field on the island species to the same data I collected on the nearest mainland rela-

tives to each island species. Easy, right?

Not quite. Traveling to and working on the islands in the Sea of Cortés may sound at first like a pleasurable way to complete a dissertation, but actually doing so has proved challenging in several ways (just getting this project idea past my dissertation committee was challenge enough). Permits to work on the islands and with island endemic species are difficult to secure and arranging for boat travel to some of the islands can take days. Heat exhaustion, biting/stinging insects, gastrointestinal upsets and the potential for rattlesnake bite combined with the isolation of these uninhabited islands pose very real and very serious health risks; there's no fresh water, no air-conditioning, no doctor, and no dialing 911. Costs associated with travel, equipment, insurance, and other safety measures can also be prohibitive. But thanks to partial funding from the Chicago Herpetological Society and the enthusiasm (or naïveté?) of youth, I have been successful in overcoming most of these challenges and will be publishing the results of this work soon. Thanks, CHS!

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## Checklist of Amphibians and Reptiles of the Comarca Lagunera in Durango-Coahuila, Mexico

Héctor Gadsden<sup>1</sup>, José Luis Estrada-Rodríguez<sup>2</sup> and Sandra V. Leyva-Pacheco<sup>2</sup>

### Abstract

A tentative checklist of 67 species and subspecies of amphibians and reptiles is reported from the Comarca Lagunera area in Durango-Coahuila, Mexico. Included are 8 frogs and toads, 4 turtles (2 endemic species), 27 lizards (7 endemic species), and 28 snakes (2 endemic subspecies). This list also reflects current nomenclature and taxonomic status from this herpetologically poorly known area.

### Introduction

The amphibians and reptiles of northeastern Durango and southwestern Coahuila generally are not well-known. Various regional studies in this area (Smith, 1934, 1936; Schmidt and Bogert, 1947; Conant, 1953, 1963, 1968, 1969, 1977; Webb and Hensley, 1959; Legler, 1959; Williams et al., 1960; Webb, 1965, 1970, 1990; Axtell and Axtell, 1971; Commins and Savitsky, 1973; Morafka, 1977, 1982; Adest, 1977; Pough et al., 1978; Iverson, 1979; Bezy, 1989; Morafka et al., 1992; Good, 1994; Smith et al., 1995; Axtell and Webb, 1995; Lemos-Espinal et al., 1998, 1999, 2002; Wiens et al. 1999; Guzmán and Muñiz-Martínez, 1999; Gadsden et al., 2001a, 2001b; Seidel, 2002; Smith et al., 2002; Estrada-Rodríguez et al., 2003, 2004; Castañeda et al., 2004, 2005; Leyva-Pacheco et al., 2004; García de la Peña et al., 2004, 2005) have provided much important information over the years, but a regional checklist has been in demand.

We provide here a tentative checklist of the amphibians and reptiles of this poorly known region.

### Methodology

Herpetofauna surveys were carried out from 2000 to 2004 with seasonal samplings at several localities in the Comarca Lagunera within the Mapimian subprovince of the Chihuahuan Desert. The area (approximately 4,900 km<sup>2</sup>) lies between latitudes 25°15'N and 25°40'N and longitudes 102°55'W and 103°50'W. Torreón, Coahuila, lies approximately in the center of this area. The elevation oscillates between 1100 and 1350 m above sea level. The average monthly temperature ranges from 13°C in January to 28°C during the summer. Average annual rainfall is 230 mm but varies greatly among years (Schmidt, 1979). The vegetation is dominated by a desert thornscrub of *Larrea tridentata*, *Acacia* sp., *Opuntia* sp., *Prosopis* sp., *Agave* sp., and *Yucca* sp. (Breimer, 1985).

This list has been compiled from personal records based on field observations by the authors and from literature citations. Organisms observed during the survey were captured with hand collection, noose and water-spray techniques (Estrada-Rodríguez et al., 2004). All the amphibians and reptiles captured

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1. Instituto de Ecología, A. C.-Centro Regional Chihuahua, Km. 33.3 Carretera Chihuahua-Ojinaga, Cd. Aldama, Chihuahua, México. E-mail: gadsden@sequia.edu.mx

2. Centro de Estudios Ecológicos-Escuela Superior de Biología, Universidad Juárez del Estado de Durango, Av. S/N, Fraccionamiento Filadelfia, Gómez Palacio, Durango, México.

were released at the point of initial sighting immediately after being identified and photographed. Since capturing was not selective, the number of specimens observed is a crude measure of the relative abundance of each species and subspecies during the period of survey (Davis and Dixon, 1961). In presenting our report we have given attention to data on localities and on the habitat occupied by each species or subspecies. Identification as to species was based on the guides of Conant and Collins (1998) and Stebbins (2003); and keys of Powell et al. (1998) and Lemos-Espinal et al. (2004).

The checklist includes recent nomenclatural changes, both scientific and standard English names (Liner, 1994; Bell et al., 2003; Flores-Villela and Canseco-Márquez, 2004).

## Results and Discussion

The checklist below lists the species and subspecies of amphibians and reptiles occurring in the Comarca Lagunera region. This list also reflects current nomenclature and taxonomic status. We registered 67 taxa (species and subspecies): 8 anurans (12%), 4 turtles (6%), 27 lizards (40%), and 28 snakes (42%).

This small area shows a relatively high diversity of amphibians and reptiles (67 species and subspecies). This includes many endemic species of reptiles (*Uma exsul*, *Crotaphytus antiquus*, *Xantusia bolsonae*, *Xantusia extorris*, *Sceloporus lineolateralis*, *Sceloporus maculosus*, *Sceloporus cyanostictus*, *Kinosternon durangoense* and *Gopherus flavomarginatus*) and two endemic subspecies of snakes (*Bogertophis subocularis amplinotus* and *Nerodia erythrogaster bogerti*). Unfortunately, the disordered development of many human activities has had great impact on the integrity and biological diversity of the Comarca Lagunera. Major threats include habitat destruction, fragmentation, degradation and contamination by aerial crop dusting with pesticides.

Several endemic lizard species of this area (namely *Uma exsul*, *Crotaphytus antiquus*, *Sceloporus lineolateralis*, *S. maculosus*, *S. cyanostictus*, *Xantusia bolsonae* and *X. extorris*) are confined to “islands” of suitable habitat surrounded by inhospitable terrain. These reptiles do not migrate from one area to another due to unsuitable conditions between their “island” habitats. For such species habitat modifications or disturbance can be devastating. Presently, anthropogenic degradation of the habitats of these species is accelerating. These sites are not protected; we urgently recommend that a conservation plan be established to assure perpetuation of this endemic herpetofauna.

### Checklist of Amphibians and Reptiles of the Comarca Lagunera, Durango-Coahuila, Mexico

#### Class Amphibia — Amphibians

#### Order Anura — Frogs and Toads

##### Family Bufonidae — Toads

*Bufo cognatus* Say, in James 1823 (Great Plains Toad).

Localities: all municipalities of the Comarca Lagunera (Gomez Palacio, Lerdo, Tlahualilo, Cuencame, Nazas, San Juan de Guadalupe, San Pedro del Gallo, Rodeo, and Simón Bolívar, Durango; Torreón, Matamoros, Viesca, San Pedro de las Colonias, and Francisco Madero, Coahuila).

Habitat: wet plains in agriculture areas and flooded fields.

Specimens observed: 60.

*Bufo debilis insidiosus* Girard 1854 (Green Toad).

Localities: Villa de Bilbao, Saucillo, Venustiano Carranza, and Ciudad Viesca, mpio. Viesca; Laguna de Mayrán, mpio. San Pedro de las Colonias, Coahuila.

Habitat: shortgrass prairies and desert flats, where it is seldom seen except after heavy rains in temporary pools.

Specimens observed: 99.

*Bufo punctatus* Baird and Girard 1852 (Red-spotted Toad).

Locality: Sierra El Sarnoso, mpio. Lerdo, Durango.

Habitat: in rocky areas, shallow temporary pools or quiet water of seasonal stream channels.

Specimens observed: 4.

##### Family Scaphiopodidae — Spadefoot Toads

*Scaphiopus couchii* Baird 1854 (Couch’s Spadefoot Toad).

Localities: all municipalities of the Comarca Lagunera (Gómez Palacio, Lerdo, Tlahualilo, Mapimí, Cuencame, Nazas, San Juan de Guadalupe, San Pedro del Gallo, Rodeo, and Simón Bolívar, Durango; Torreón, Matamoros, Viesca, San Pedro de las Colonias, and Francisco I. Madero, Coahuila).

Habitat: temporary pools and irrigation channels in agricultural areas; frequents shortgrass plains.

Specimens observed: 34.

*Spea multiplicata* (Cope 1863) (New Mexico Spadefoot Toad).

Localities: Villa de Bilbao, Saucillo, Venustiano Carranza, and Ciudad Viesca, mpio. Viesca, Coahuila; Laguna de Mayran, mpio. San Pedro de las Colonias, Coahuila.

Habitat: temporary pools and shortgrass plains.

Specimens observed: 8.

##### Family Microhylidae — Narrowmouth Toads

*Gastrophryne olivacea* (Hallowell 1856) (Great Plains Narrowmouth Toad).

Localities: Saporiz, Vallecillos, and Graceros, mpio. Lerdo, Durango; Vicente Suarez, mpio. Mapimí, Durango.

Habitat: pools bordering the Nazas River.

Specimens observed: 20.

##### Family Ranidae — True Frogs

*Rana berlandieri* Baird 1854 (Rio Grande Leopard Frog).

Localities: La Posta in Saporiz, Cañón de Fernández in Graceros, mpio. Lerdo, Durango; Las Luisas, mpio. Gómez Palacio, Durango.

Habitat: dams of the Nazas River and permanent pools.

Specimens observed: 50.

*Rana catesbeiana* Shaw 1802 (Bullfrog).

Localities: La Posta in Saporiz and Cañón de Fernández in Graceros, mpio. Lerdo, Durango.

Habitat: dams of the Nazas River and permanent pools.  
Specimens observed: 8.

## Class Reptilia

### Order Testudines – Turtles

#### Family Kinosternidae – Mud and Musk Turtles

*Kinosternon durangoense* Iverson 1979 (Yellow Mud Turtle).  
Localities: Aguanaval and Nazas Rivers, Durango and Coahuila; Laguna de Mayran, Coahuila.  
Habitat: lagoons, pools, and irrigation channels.  
Specimens observed: 42.

*Kinosternon hirtipes* (Wagler 1830) (Mexican Mud Turtle).  
Localities: Cañón de Fernández and Sierra El Sarnoso, mpio. Lerdo, Durango.  
Habitat: Nazas River and pools.  
Specimens observed: 9.

#### Family Emydidae – Emydid Turtles

*Trachemys gaigeae* (Hartweg 1939) (Big Bend Slider).  
Localities: Cañón de Fernández, mpio. Lerdo, Durango.  
Habitat: rivers, pools, dams and ponds.  
Specimens observed: 12.

#### Family Testudinidae – Tortoises

*Gopherus flavomarginatus* Legler 1959 (Bolson Tortoise).  
Locality: mpio. Tlahualilo.  
Habitat: grasslands and dunes.  
Specimens observed: 3.

### Order Squamata – Lizards and Snakes

#### Suborder Sauria – Lizards

#### Family Anguidae – Alligator Lizards

*Gerrhonotus infernalis* Baird 1859 (“1858”) (Texas Alligator Lizard).  
Localities: Sierra de Jimulco, mpio. Torreón, Coahuila; Cañón de Fernández, mpio. Lerdo, Durango.  
Habitat: Rockies, stream channels; riparian *Prosopis* (mesquites), and riparian grasslands.  
Specimens observed: 4.

#### Family Gekkonidae – Geckos

*Coleonyx brevis* Stejneger 1893 (Texas Banded Gecko).  
Localities: Francisco Zarco (water reservoir), Graseros, mpio. Lerdo, Durango; Sierra El Sarnoso, mpios. Gómez Palacio and Lerdo, Durango; Sierra el Rosario, mpios. Lerdo and Mapimí, Durango; Dunas de Viesca, mpios. Viesca and Matamoros, Coahuila; Laguna de Mayrán, mpio. San Pedro de las Colonias, Coahuila; Valle de Acatita, mpios. Tlahualilo, Durango and Francisco I. Madero, Coahuila.  
Habitat: under several types of dominant vegetation (*Larrea tridentata*, *Suaeda nigrescens*).

Specimens observed: 11.

*Hemidactylus turcicus* (Linnaeus 1758) (Mediterranean Gecko).  
Locality: All communities of the Comarca Lagunera.  
Habitat: buildings, window screens, or near lights where insects congregate.  
Specimens observed: 30.

#### Family Crotaphytidae – Collared and Leopard Lizards

*Crotaphytus antiquus* Axtell and Webb 1995 (Coahuila Collared Lizard).  
Locality: Sierra de San Lorenzo, Coahuila.  
Habitat: Most often seen sunning atop rocks or found hiding beneath rocks.  
Specimens observed: 4.

*Crotaphytus collaris* (Say, in James 1823) (Collared Lizard).  
Localities: Sierra El Sarnoso, mpios. Lerdo and Gómez Palacio, Durango; Sierra del Rosario, mpios. Lerdo and Mapimí, Durango; Cañón de Fernández, mpio. Lerdo; Cañón del Indio, Sierra de las Noas, mpio. Lerdo, Durango and Torreón, Coahuila; Sierra de la Campana, mpio. Tlahualilo, Durango; Sierra de Jimulco, mpio. Torreón, Coahuila; Hacienda de Hornos, mpio. Viesca, Coahuila; Sierra el Clarín, mpio. San Pedro de las Colonias, Coahuila; Valle de Acatita, mpios. Tlahualilo, Durango, and Francisco I. Madero, Coahuila.  
Habitat: limestone ledges or rock piles are favorite habitats.  
Specimens observed: 17.

*Gambelia wislizenii* (Baird and Girard 1852) (Longnose Leopard Lizard).  
Localities: Sierra El Sarnoso, mpio. Lerdo, Durango; Saucillo, Villa de Bilbao, and Gabino Vázquez, mpio. Viesca, Coahuila.  
Habitat: Almost always found on loose, sandy or gravelly soil, and frequently close to a borrow.  
Specimens observed: 8.

#### Family Phrynosomatidae – Includes Zebra-tailed, Earless, Fringe-toed, Spiny, Tree, Side-blotched and Horned Lizards

*Cophosaurus texanus scitulus* (Peters 1951) (Southwestern Earless Lizard).  
Localities: almost all municipalities of the Comarca Lagunera.  
Habitat: rocky desert flats and the vicinity of rocky cliffs and stream beds.  
Specimens observed: 55.

*Holbrookia approximans* Baird 1859 (“1858”) (Speckled Earless Lizard).  
Localities: all municipalities of the Comarca Lagunera.  
Habitat: abandoned agricultural areas, and outwash slopes of intermontane basins.  
Specimens observed: 35.

*Phrynosoma cornutum* (Harlan 1825) (Texas Horned Lizard).  
Localities: Sierra de Tlahualilo, and Sierra de la Campana, mpio. Tlahualilo, Durango; Cañón de Fernández, Sierra El Sarnoso, Nazareno, Sierra El Rosario, mpio. Lerdo, Durango; Laguna de Mayran and Valle de Acatita, mpios. San Pedro de las Colonias, and Francisco I. Madero, Coahuila; Río Aguanaval and Sierra de Jimulco, mpio. Torreón, Coahuila.

Habitat: flat open terrain with sparse plant cover; often found in areas of sandy, rocky, or loamy soil.

Specimens observed: 15.

*Phrynosoma modestum* Girard 1852 (Roundtail Horned Lizard).

Localities: Cañón de Fernández, Sierra El Sarnoso, and El Rosario, mpio. Lerdo, Durango.

Habitat: plains with rocky areas and shrubby vegetation.

Specimens observed: 5.

*Sceloporus cowlesi* Lowe and Norris 1956 (Southern Plateau Lizard).

Localities: Cañón de Fernández and Sierra El Sarnoso, mpio. Lerdo, Durango.

Habitat: mesquite (*Prosopis*) vegetation bordering Nazas River and near wood fences.

Specimens observed: 8.

*Sceloporus cyanostictus* Axtell and Axtell 1971 (Yarrow's Blue-spotted Spiny Lizard).

Localities: Sierra de San Lorenzo, mpio. San Pedro de las Colonias, Coahuila.

Habitat: rocky cervices and cliffs.

Specimens observed: 14.

*Sceloporus grammicus* Wiegman 1828 (Mesquite Lizard).

Localities: Cañón de Fernández, mpio. Lerdo, Durango; Aguanaval River, Durango.

Habitat: gallery forest, always on mesquite (*Prosopis* sp.) and ahuehuate trees (*Taxodium mucronatum*).

Specimens observed: 28.

*Sceloporus jarrovii* Cope, in Yarrow 1875 (Yarrow's Spiny Lizard).

Localities: Cañón de Fernández and Sierra El Sarnoso, mpio. Lerdo, Durango.

Habitat: rocky canyons and hillsides.

Specimens observed: 117.

*Sceloporus lineolateralis* Smith 1936 (Yarrow's Durango Spiny Lizard).

Locality: 10 km NE Pedriceña, Durango.

Habitat: slopes with limestone rocks.

Specimens observed: 12.

*Sceloporus maculosus* Smith 1934 (Spotted Spiny Lizard).

Locality: 22.5 km NE Pedriceña, Durango.

Habitat: slopes with limestone rocks in hills.

Specimens observed: 8.

*Sceloporus magister bimaculosus* Phelan and Brattstrom 1955 (Twin-spotted Spiny Lizard).

Localities: Cañón de Fernández, Sierra de España, Sierra el Sarnoso, and Sierra el Rosario, mpio. Lerdo, Durango; Sierra Mapimí, mpio. de Mapimí, Durango; Sierra de Jimulco and Sierra de las Noas, mpio. de Torreón, Coahuila.

Habitat: mesquite-yucca grassland and mesquite woodland.

Specimens observed: 14.

*Sceloporus poinsettii polylepis* Smith and Chrapliwy 1958 (Southern Crevice Lizard).

Localities: Cañón de Fernández and Sierra El Sarnoso, mpio. Lerdo, Durango; Sierra de la Candelaria, mpios. Simon Boli-

var and San Juan de Guadalupe, Durango.

Habitat: rocky canyons, hillsides, and outcrops of limestone or granite.

Specimens observed: 30.

*Uma exsul* Schmidt and Bogert 1947 (Coahuila Fringe-toed Lizard).

Localities: Laguna de Mayran, mpios. San Pedro de las Colonias and Francisco I. Madero, Coahuila; and Laguna de Viesca, mpios. Viesca and Matamoros, Coahuila.

Habitat: quartz dunes and unusually compacted plains.

Specimens observed: 215.

*Urosaurus ornatus caeruleus* (Smith 1935) (Blue Tree Lizard).

Localities: Cañón de Fernández, mpio. Lerdo, Durango.

Habitat: ahuehuate trees (*Taxodium mucronatum*).

Specimens observed: 1.

*Uta steynegeri* Schmidt 1921 (Desert Side-blotched Lizard).

Localities: all municipalities of the Comarca Lagunera.

Habitat: an abundant lizard in many areas; often found in sandy and saline soils, and on desert flats and foothills.

Specimens observed: 70.

*Xantusia bolsonae* Webb 1970 (Bolson Night Lizard).

Localities: Sierra el Sarnoso, mpio. Lerdo, Durango.

Habitat: rock crevices, under rocks and downed woody material.

Specimens observed: 4.

*Xantusia extorris* Webb 1965 (Durango Night Lizard).

Localities: Sierra el Sarnoso and Cañón de Fernández, mpio. Lerdo, Durango.

Habitat: *Yucca* sp., fallen branches of ahuehuate trees (*Taxodium mucronatum*).

Specimens observed: 5.

#### Family Scincidae – Skinks

*Plestiodon obsoletus* (Baird and Girard 1852) (Great Plains Skink).

Localities: Tlahualilo, mpio. Tlahualilo, Durango; Cañón de Fernández, mpio. Lerdo, Durango.

Habitat: stream channels; riparian grass and low shrubby growth. Rocky outcrops near thickets along permanent or intermittent streams are especially favored.

Specimens observed: 5.

#### Family Teiidae – Whiptails

*Aspidoscelis inornata inornata* (Baird 1859 [“1858”]) (Little Striped Whiptail).

Locality: Cañón de Fernández, mpio. Lerdo, Durango.

Habitat: foothills, rocky, grassy slopes, alluvial flats, and deteriorated grassland.

Specimens observed: 8.

*Aspidoscelis marmorata marmorata* (Baird and Girard 1852) (Western Marbled Whiptail).

Localities: Laguna de Mayran and Laguna de Viesca, mpio. San Pedro de las Colonias, Coahuila; Valle de Acatita, mpio. Francisco I. Madero, Coahuila; Tlahualilo, mpio. Talahualilo, Durango.

Habitat: usually where plants are sparse and there are open areas.

Specimens observed: 4.

*Aspidoscelis septemvittata* (Cope 1892) (Plateau Spotted Whip-tail).

Localities: all municipalities of the Comarca Lagunera.

Habitat: prairie grassland, rocky hillsides, washes, and river bottoms grown to mesquite, acacia, cactus, and shrub.

Specimens observed: 32.

### Suborder Serpentes (Ophidia)—Snakes

#### Family Typhlopidae—Blind Snakes

*Ramphotyphlops braminus* (Daudin 1803) (Brahminy Blind Snake).

Locality: Gomez Palacio, mpio. Gomez Palacio, Durango.

Habitat: a burrower in loose, moist soil.

Specimens observed: 2.

#### Family Leptotyphlopidae—Slender Blind Snakes

*Leptotyphlops humilis segregus* Klauber 1939 (Trans-Pecos Blind Snake).

Localities: Gomez Palacio, mpio. Gomez Palacio, Durango.

Habitat: a burrower under rocks near streams, springs, or other areas where moisture is present.

Specimens observed: 11.

#### Family Colubridae—Colubrid Snakes

*Arizona elegans expolita* Klauber 1946 (Mexican Glossy Snake).

Localities: Sierra el Sarnoso and Ejido San Felipe, mpio. Gómez Palacio, Durango; Cañón de Fernández, and Sapioriz, mpio. Lerdo, Durango.

Specimens observed: 4.

*Bogertophis subocularis amplinotus* Webb 1990 (Durango Rat Snake).

Localities: Sierra el Sarnoso, mpio. Lerdo, Durango.

Habitat: rock piles or mammal burrows.

Specimens observed: 1.

*Diadophis punctatus dugesii* Villada 1875 (Dugès's Ring-necked Snake).

Locality: Cañón de Fernández, mpio. Lerdo, Durango.

Habitat: moist habitat with watercourses where it may descend.

Specimens observed: 1.

*Heterodon kennerlyi* Kennicott 1860 (Mexican Hog-nosed Snake).

Locality: Pueblo Nuevo, Ejido San Felipe, and Ejido Arcinas, mpio. Gómez Palacio, Durango; Cañón de Fernández, mpio. Lerdo, Durango.

Habitat: gravelly prairies, floodplains of streams where loose soil is suitable for burrowing, and farmlands.

Specimens observed: 4.

*Hypsiglena torquata janii* (Dugès 1865) (Texas Night Snake).

Locality: Gómez Palacio and Lerdo, Durango; Torreón,

Coahuila; Ejido Vallecillos, mpio. Lerdo, Durango; Ejido Horizonte, mpio. Tlahualilo, Durango.

Habitat: grassland, chaparral, and thornscrub. Occurs in both rocky and sandy areas.

Specimens observed: 5.

*Lampropeltis alterna* (Brown 1901) (Gray-banded King Snake).

Locality: Sierra el Sarnoso, mpio. Lerdo, Durango.

Habitat: rock crevices.

Specimens observed: 1.

*Lampropeltis getula splendida* (Baird and Girard 1853) (Desert King Snake).

Localities: Francisco Zarco (water reservoir), mpio. Lerdo, Durango; Ejido El Compás, mpio. Gómez Palacio, Durango.

Habitat: near streams or irrigation ditches.

Specimens observed: 2.

*Masticophis flagellum lineatulus* Smith 1941 (Lined Coach-whip).

Localities: Cañón de Fernández, Sierra el Rosario, Sierra el Sarnoso, mpio. Lerdo, Durango; Ejido Gabino Vázquez, Ejido Saucillo, mpio. Viesca, Coahuila; Finesterre, mpio. Francisco I. Madero, Coahuila; Laguna de Mayran, mpio. San Pedro de las Colonias, Coahuila.

Habitat: prairie, scrubland, farmland, rocky areas, mesquites (*Prosopis* sp.).

Specimens observed: 10.

*Masticophis taeniatus girardi* (Stejneger and Barbour 1917) (Central Texas Whip Snake).

Locality: Sierra el Sarnoso, mpio. Lerdo, Durango.

Habitat: shrublands, brushlands, and rocky canyons.

Specimens observed: 4.

*Nerodia erythrogaster bogerti* (Conant 1953) (Nazas Water Snake).

Locality: Cañón de Fernández, and Ejido Sapioriz, mpio.

Lerdo, Durango.

Habitat: highly aquatic, usually found in or near water, river bottoms, wooded borders of rivers, ponds, ditches, and cattle tanks.

Specimens observed: 3.

*Pantherophis emoryi emoryi* (Baird and Girard 1853) (Great Plains Rat Snake).

Localities: Cañón de Fernández, mpio. Lerdo, Durango.

Habitat: hides beneath stones and in rock crevices or burrows; often occurs along water courses.

Specimens observed: 4.

*Pituophis catenifer affinis* (Hallowell 1852) (Sonoran Gopher Snake).

Localities: all municipalities of the Comarca Lagunera.

Habitat: farmland, grassland, prairie, open brushland.

Specimens observed: 24.

*Rhinocheilus lecontei tessellatus* Garman 1883 (Texas Long-nose Snake).

Locality: Ejido Venecia, mpio. Gómez Palacio, Durango.

Habitat: mesquital (*Prosopis* sp.).

Specimens observed: 1.

*Salvadora deserticola* Schmidt 1940 (Big Bend Patchnose Snake).

Locality: Sierra el Sarnoso, mpio. Lerdo, Durango.

Habitat: rocky foothills with shrubs.

Specimens observed: 2.

*Salvadora grahamiae lineata* Schmidt 1940 (Texas Patchnose Snake).

Locality: Sierra de Jimulco, mpio. Torreón, Coahuila.

Habitat: rocky foothills.

Specimens observed: 1.

*Sonora semiannulata semiannulata* Baird and Girard 1853 (Ground Snake).

Localities: Torreón, mpio. Torreón, Coahuila; Ejido Venecia y Gómez Palacio, mpio. Gómez Palacio, Durango; Cañón de Fernández, mpio. Lerdo, Durango; Ejido Villa de Bilbao, mpio. Viesca, Coahuila.

Specimens observed: 5.

*Tantilla atriceps* (Günther 1895) Mexican Blackhead Snake.

Locality: Cañón de Fernández, mpio. Lerdo, Durango.

Habitat: gallery forest and mesquite (*Prosopis* sp.).

Specimens observed: 5.

*Tantilla nigriceps* Kennicott 1860 (Plains Blackhead Snake).

Localities: Ejido La Unión, mpio. Torreón, Coahuila; Santo Tomás community, mpio. Matamoros, Coahuila.

Habitat: abandoned farmlands.

Specimens observed: 2.

*Thamnophis cyrtopsis cyrtopsis* (Kennicott 1860) (Black-necked Garter Snake).

Localities: Sierra de Jimulco, mpio. Torreón, Coahuila; Sierra el Sarnoso, mpio. Gómez Palacio, Durango; and Cañón de Fernández, mpio. Lerdo, Durango.

Habitat: chiefly a stream snake of foothills, and chaparral-covered hillsides.

Specimens observed: 4.

*Thamnophis eques megalops* (Kennicott 1860) (Northern Mexican Garter Snake).

Localities: Cañón de Fernández, Lerdo, Durango.

Habitat: river bottoms, wooded borders of rivers, and mesquite.

Specimens observed: 1.

*Thamnophis marcianus marcianus* (Baird and Girard 1853) (Checkered Garter Snake).

Localities: Ejido San Toña, Ejido Luján, Ejido Masitas, Ejido San José de Viñedo, Ejido San Felipe, Durango; Las Luisas,

mpio. Gómez Palacio, Durango.

Habitat: streambeds, springs, and irrigation ditches.

Specimens observed: 17.

#### Family Viperidae—Rattlesnakes

*Crotalus atrox* Baird and Girard 1853 (Western Diamondback Rattlesnake).

Localities: Sierra el Sarnoso, Ejido La Luz, Ejido Dinamita, Ejido San Felipe, mpio. Gómez Palacio, Durango; Cañón de Fernández, Sierra el Rosario, mpio. Lerdo, Durango; Ejido Saucillo, mpio. Viesca, Coahuila.

Habitat: grassland, shrubland, river bottoms, sand dunes, and rocky upland areas.

Specimens observed: 7.

*Crotalus lepidus klauberi* Gloyd 1936 (Banded Rock Rattlesnake).

Localities: Cañón de Fernández, mpio. Lerdo, Durango; Sierra el Sarnoso, Ejido Dinamita, mpio. Gómez Palacio, Durango.

Habitat: rocky ridges, hillsides, streambeds, and wooded borders of rivers.

Specimens observed: 8.

*Crotalus lepidus lepidus* (Kennicott 1861) (Mottled Rock Rattlesnake).

Localities: Sierra el Sarnoso, Ejido Dinamita, mpio. Gómez Palacio, Durango; Cañón de Fernández, Sierra el Rosario, mpio. Lerdo, Durango.

Habitat: chiefly a mountain rock-dweller that frequents rocky ridges, hillsides, streambeds, and wooded borders of rivers.

Specimens observed: 12.

*Crotalus molossus molossus* Baird and Girard 1853 (Blacktail Rattlesnake).

Localities: Cañón de Fernández, Sierra el Rosario, Sierra el Sarnoso, mpio. Lerdo, Durango; Ejido la Florde Jimulco, mpio. Torreón, Coahuila.

Habitat: rockslides, outcrops, areas near cliffs, and stream courses.

Specimens observed: 13.

*Crotalus scutulatus scutulatus* (Kennicott 1861) (Mohave Rattlesnake).

Localities: Sierra el Sarnoso, mpio. Gómez Palacio, Durango; Sierra el Rosario, mpio. Lerdo, Durango.

Habitat: grassland, scrubland, creosote bush, mesquite, and mountain slopes. Specimens observed: 5.

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