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# NOTES

WESTERN RECORDS OF THE DAVIS MOUNTAINS KINGSNAKE, *LAMPROPELTIS MEXICANA ALTERNA*, IN TEXAS.—The Davis Mountains kingsnake, *Lampropeltis mexicana alterna*, is known from throughout much of the Trans-Pecos Texas; the westernmost records are in the Sierra Vieja Mountains (Jamison and Flury, Tex. J. Sci. 1: 54–77, 1949), Davis Mountains (Brown, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila. 53: 612–613, 1901; Gehlbach and McCoy, Herpetologica 21: 35–38, 1965), and Guadalupe Mountains (Gehland and McCoy, 1965). The species is reviewed by Gehlbach (Cat. Amer. Amphib. Rep.: 55.1–55.2, 1967). Two *L. m. alterna* from Hudspeth Co., Texas, extend the known range west to the Eagle and Hueco Mtns.

On 25 June 1972, a small male *L. m. alterna* was removed in early morning from a sprung Museum Special mouse trap near the Marine Ranch House, Eagle Mountains, 5500 ft, Hudspeth Co., Texas (30° 55′ 20″ N–105° 02′ 30″ W). This locality is approximately 42 mi NW of the Fox Hollow locality in the Sierra Vieja Mountains (Jamison and Flury, 1949) and more than 70 mi W of the Davis Mts. localities (Gehlbach and McCoy, 1965). The specimen (MALB 1939) has 219 ventrals (216 if counted by the Dowling method), 64 subcaudals, 16 body blotches (most contain scattered red scales), and 4 tail rings (not including black tip of tail). The color pattern represents the *alterna* pattern of this dimorphic species (Tanzer, Herpetologica 26: 419–428, 1970).

The Eagle Mts. specimen was collected on a study plot in the course of analysing vegetation and censusing small mammals. The study plot has an average slope of 8.9° to the south. The soil is thin, gravely, and derived from the rhyolite and syenite that composes the Eagle Mts. Dominant plants in decreasing order of importance were *Opuntia engelmannii*, *Acacia constricta*, *Prosopis glandulosa*, *Rhus microphylla*, and *Opuntia imbricata*. The community is probably transitional to more upland communities as evidenced by the occurrence of occasional *Celtis reticulata*, *Juniperus monosperma*, and *Nolina* sp. The small mammals censused on the plot were *Neotoma albigula*, *Peroyscus boylii*, *Perognathus intermedius* and *Perognathus flavus*. Reptiles and amphibians collected on the plot or within 100 m were *Bufo punctatus*, *Phrynosoma modestum*, *Cnemidophorus exsanguis*, *Cophosaurus texanus*, *Crotaphytus collaris*, *Crotalus atrox* and *Crotalus molossus*.

A female *L. m. alterna* was found on a paved highway, known locally as the Hueco-Gasline Road, approximately 9:30 PM (CST), 25 August 1972, 1.5 mi SW of the El Paso-Hudspeth Co. line in Hudspeth Co., 4250 ft, Texas (31° 41′ N–105° 58′ W). This area is formed of alluvial fan deposits with the dominant vegetation being creosote bush (*Larrea divaricata*). Approximately 0.8 mi N of this locality the rimrock of the Hueco Mts. rises precipitously about 600 ft above the road. This record of occurrence is approximately 75 mi NW of the Eagle Mts. locality and 70 mi SW of the Guadalupe Mts. locality. Pertinent counts and measurements are as follows: 670 mm s-v length; 101 mm tail length; 219 ventrals (216 by the Dowling method); 51 subcaudals (the tip of the tail may be missing); 15 body blotches; 4 tail rings. The snake displays the *alterna* pattern morph; however, the body blotches are no more than two scale-lengths wide and the anterior four blotches are incomplete laterally. No pattern is discernable on the head other than some dark speckling. Reddish colored scales occur within most of the dark body and tail blotches but do not form saddles. The snake is now alive in the custody of Worthington.

A third specimen of *L. m. alterna* (MALB 542) from the east side of Guadalupe Peak, Culberson Co., Texas, is near the locality reported by Gehlbach and McCoy (1965). It is a male bearing 220 ventrals (216 by the Dowling method), 66 sub-

caudals, and is of interest in that it also has a low number of body (19) and tail (4) rings and lacks red pigment.

We wish to express our thanks to Mr. Albert Fay for permission to collect on the Eagle Mt. Ranch. We also wish to thank Mr. Jerold M. Carter, Mr. John L. Hightower and Mr. Adeeb G. Farah for habitat data on the Eagle Mts. specimen. All specimens are in the collection of the Museum of Arid Land Biology (MALB), Department of Biological Sciences, The University of Texas at El Paso. This is contribution No. 6 from the Museum of Arid Land Biology.—*Richard D. Worthington, Department of Biological Sciences and Museum of Arid Land Biology, The University of Texas at El Paso, 79968 and Edward R. Arvizo, Department of Zoology, Utah State University, Logan, Utah 84321.*