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A CHECKLIST AND KEY TO THE AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES OF BELIZE, CENTRAL AMERICA

by

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A CHECKLIST AND KEY TO
THE AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES
OF BELIZE, CENTRAL AMERICA

Robert W. Henderson and Leo G. Hoevers

Teakettle . . . Double Head Cabbage . . . Young Girl . . . Go to Hell Camp . . . Bread and Butter Cay . . . Never Delay . . . Orange Walk. These are but a few of the intriguing place names of Belize, zoologically the least known country in Middle America. Belize, previously called British Honduras until 1972, is a country of 8866 mi² (174 x 68 mi) situated at the southeastern base of the Yucatan Peninsula. It is bordered on the north by Quintana Roo, Mexico, on the south and west by Guatemala, and on the east by the Caribbean Sea. Accounts, including photographs, of the physiography of Belize appear in Neill and Allen (1959a:6-19) and Russell (1964:16-29). A good history of the country is presented by Dobson (1973).

Herpetologically, the country is relatively well known, although additional species will probably be discovered. It has been 34 years since K. P. Schmidt (1941) prepared the first checklist of Belize's herpetofauna and summarized the herpetological collecting that had been done in the country. It was not until the mid-1950's that Wilfred T. Neill and Ross Allen began an intensive survey of the herpetofauna of Belize, and between 1959 and 1965 they published, either jointly or singly, 11 papers solely on Belize amphibians and reptiles (Allen and Neill, 1959; Neill, 1960, 1962, 1965; Neill and Allen, 1959a, b, c, 1960, 1961a, b, 1962). In his 1965 paper, Neill presented a list of Belizean amphibians and reptiles (see Table 1). In that same paper, Neill stated that "a detailed herpetology of British Honduras is in preparation . . .", but it never materialized. Subsequently little has been published on the herpetofauna of Belize with the exception of occasional additions to the herpetofauna. McCoy (1970) analysed a collection of snakes from Middlesex, and Henderson discussed the ecology of *Ctenosaura similis* (1973), *Oxybelis aeneus* (1974a), *Iguana iguana* (1974b), and other reptiles (in press) in the vicinity of Belize City. We published a paper (Hoevers and Henderson, 1974) on several noteworthy additions to the herpetofauna and several other papers are in preparation.

METHODS

The senior author spent about one year in Belize, principally 1970-71, and was primarily engaged in ecological studies of several

TABLE 1. The number of species treated in the Belize checklists. Only species that are still considered valid elements of the Belize herpetofauna were included from the Schmidt and Neill checklists.

	Schmidt 1941	Neill 1965	Henderson and Hoevers 1975
Salamanders	2	2	2
Anurans	14	21	26
Lizards	30	35	38
Snakes	37	46	54
Crocodilians	2	2	2
Turtles	8	12	12
Total Number of Species	93	118	134

Belizean reptiles in the vicinity of Belize City. The junior author resided in Belize from 1967 to 1975. He collected throughout the country, but most of his time was spent in Orange Walk District. We have had field experience with 63% of the Belize herpetofauna. As compared to the 1600 specimens available to Schmidt (1941) for his checklist, there are currently about 6000 specimens of amphibians and reptiles from Belize in U.S. and European collections.

Several keys were adapted from the following sources: Duellman (1970), Lynch (1968), Meyer and Wilson (1973), Smith and Taylor (1950), and Stuart (1963).

Following is the format used in each species account:

SYNONYMIES: Synonymies include only references that concern the occurrence of the species in Belize or make specific reference to Belize specimens. We have omitted references which, for example, only refer to Belize as being in the range of a particular species (e.g., Peters and Orejas-Miranda, 1970). We have included misidentifications in this section (e.g., *Leptophis mexicanus* misidentified as *L. modestus* by Hoevers and Henderson, 1974).

SUBSPECIES: Subspecific name(s) of a polytypic species occurring in Belize.

HABITAT: The general habitat of the species as defined by Neill and Allen (1959a). In brief they are:

Rainforest — Tropical rainforest or primary forest; found primarily in the northwestern and southern parts of the country.

Jungle — Secondary rainforest; the result of cutting primary rainforest. Most, or possibly all, of the tropical forests of Belize are jungles.

Cohune ridge — Large stands of the cohune palm (*Orbignya cohune*); often in jungles.

Scrubby thicket — Stiff woody shrubs, usually under 15 feet tall; common in northeastern Belize.

Palm and pine savanna — Scattered palms, palmettos, and slash pine.

Pine parkland — An area of rugged topography where jungle and pine meet, often with little or no ecotone; many swift streams; the area in Belize known as Mountain Pine Ridge.

Cleared — Where tropical forest once stood; may include ruderal, edificarian, and agricultural habitats.

Swamp forest — Usually the result of overflowing rivers.

Streamside thicket — Tangles of shrubs and vines along river and stream edges.

Mangrove swamps and forests — Restricted to coastal and riverine situations.

Sand strand — Dry supratidal areas, developing on dunes.

Cocotal — Cocoanut strands and groves on the coast and on cays.

Edificarian — Human habitations.

Each habitat description is followed by a brief description of the species' adaptive zone (i.e., subterrestrial, leaf litter, terrestrial, aquatic, arboreal).

DISTRIBUTION: This refers to the distribution of the species in Belize only, not its entire range. Distributions are usually given in reference to the district names always listed from north to south and west to east (i.e., Corozal, Orange Walk, Belize, Cayo, Stann Creek, Toledo). Districts and selected localities are shown in

Figure 1. The term "countrywide" refers only to mainland Belize and does not include cays. We occasionally speculated in describing distributions.

VERNACULAR NAMES: Common names used in Belize in reference to the species.

REMARKS: Miscellaneous comments.

We have omitted type locality, author citation, first citation of the present genus-species combination, and range. That information is available elsewhere. See Allen and Neil (1959) for a discussion of doubtful locality records from Belize.

We have included in each species account items of information which we feel will help to identify any given species in the field, in addition to the keys.

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KEY TO THE FAMILIES OF
AMPHIBIA AND REPTILIA IN BELIZE

1. Body covered with smooth to strongly tuberculate skin; never with scales or dermal plates (Amphibia) 2
Body covered with scales or dermal plates or encased in a shell (Reptilia) 9
2. Tail present in adults Plethodontidae (Caudata)
Tail not present in adults (Anura) 3
3. Two elongate, aligned, free-edged, spade-like tubercles on inner side of hind limb Rhinophrynidiae
Never two such tubercles on inner side of hind limb 4
4. Dorsum warty; a conspicuous parotoid gland dorsolaterally above or just anterior to arm insertions; cranial crests on upper surface of head. Bufonidae
Dorsum smooth or warty; if warty, no parotoid glands or cranial crests 5
5. Small frogs; head very narrow; mouth very small; a distinct transverse fold across top of head posterior to eyes Microhylidae
Size variable; head not conspicuously narrow; mouth large; no transverse fold behind eyes 6
6. Web between toes 4-5, if present, incised to well below midpoint between proximal and distal tubercles of toe 5. Leptodactylidae
Web always present between toes 4-5 and incised no more than midway between proximal and distal tubercles of toe 5 7
7. Small green frogs (off-white in preservative) with translucent belly wall revealing ventral body organs Centrolenidae
Size variable; belly wall never translucent 8
8. Tips of the digits expanded to form an adhesive disc . Hylidae
Tips of the digits pointed or blunt; never expanded to form an adhesive disc Ranidae
9. Body encased in a shell (Testudines) 10
Body not encased in a shell; body covered with scales or dermal plates 14

10. Limbs modified to form paddle-like structures; strictly marine turtles 11
 Limbs, though feet may be fully webbed, not paddle-like; non-marine 12
11. Shell covered by leathery skin except in juveniles in which the covering is a mosaic of numerous, plate-like bones; no claws on limbs Dermochelyidae
 Shell covered by horny scutes; limbs with claws . Cheloniidae
12. At least one scute of carapace in contact with pectoral scute Emydidae
 Scutes of carapace separated from pectoral scute of plastron either by a ligament or by one or more inframarginal scutes of bridge 13
13. At least four inframarginal scutes. Dermatemyidae
 Fewer than four inframarginal scutes. Kinosternidae
14. Cloacal (anal) opening longitudinal. Crocodylidae (Crocodylia)
 Cloacal opening transverse 15
15. Both fore and hind limbs present (Squamata, Sauria)
 Fore limbs lacking; hind limbs, if present, reduced to vestigial, claw-like structures (Squamata, Serpentes) 21
16. Belly covered with large, squarish, juxtaposed, plate-like scales or with large, smooth, imbricate, cycloid scales . . . 17
 Belly covered with numerous small, rounded or pointed, imbricate or subimbricate scales, either smooth or keeled, or with small granular scales. 20
17. A pair of frontonasal scales. Anguidae
 Frontonasal single, not paired 18
18. Dorsal and ventral scales similar, cycloid; no femoral pores; Scincidae
 Dorsal and ventral scales dissimilar, granular; femoral pores present 19
19. Scales of dorsum uniform in size, granular Teiidae
 Scales of dorsum grnular, not uniform in size; some distinctly larger than others and scattered randomly among smaller ones on lateral surface or arranged linearly on dorsum Xantusiidae

20. Upper surface of head covered with scales of variable size, some plate-like; never granular Iguanidae
 Upper surface of head covered with minute, granular scales Gekkonidae
21. All scales on body equal in size or nearly so Leptotyphlopidae
 Abdominal scales on body much larger than scales on mid dorsal region 22
22. A deep pit between eye and nostril; a pair of erectile fangs anteriorly in upper jaw Viperidae
 No pit between eye and nostril; fangs, if present, not erectile 23
23. A pair of grooved, non-erectile fangs anteriorly in upper jaw; loreal plate absent Elapidae
 No grooved, non-erectile fangs anteriorly in upper jaw; loreal plate present or absent 24
24. Vestigial hind limbs evident as a small spur on either side of cloacal opening; top of head with small uniform scales, no enlarged plates Boidae
 No vestige of hind limbs; enlarged symmetrically placed plates on top of head Colubridae

CLASS AMPHIBIA
 Order CAUDATA
 Family Plethodontidae

KEY TO THE GENERA OF PLETHODONTIDAE IN BELIZE

- More than 15 costal grooves *Oedipina*
 Less than 15 costal grooves *Bolitoglossa*

Genus *Bolitoglossa* Duméril, Bibron, and Duméril
Bolitoglossa mexicana Duméril, Bibron, and Duméril

Bolitoglossa mexicana: Dunn, 1926:402; Neill and Allen, 1959a:20; Neill, 1960:8; Neill, 1965:122.

Oedipus platydactylus: Dunn, 1926:400-403, 440-441.

Oedipus mexicanus: Schmidt, 1941:481.

Bolitoglossa moreleti mexicanus: Duellman, 1963:220.
SUBSPECIES: *B. m. mexicana* Duméril, Bibron, and Duméril.
HABITAT: Rainforest, jungle, and moist valleys in pine parkland; terrestrial and arboreal.
DISTRIBUTION: Countrywide.
VERNACULAR NAMES: Galliwasp. This name also applies to a number of lizards in Belize.

Genus *Oedipina* Keferstein
Oedipina elongata Schmidt

Oedipus elongatus: Schmidt, 1941:481.
Oedipina elongata: Neill, 1965:122.
HABITAT: Rainforest and jungle; terrestrial.
DISTRIBUTION: Known only from Stann Creek, but probably also in western Orange Walk, Cayo, and Toledo.
VERNACULAR NAME: Galliwasp.

Order ANURA
Family Rhinophryidae

Genus *Rhinophryalus* Duméril and Bibron
Rhinophryalus dorsalis Duméril and Bibron

Rhinophryalus dorsalis: Fugler, 1960:9; Neill, 1965:80, 122.
HABITAT: Rainforest, jungle, and scrub thicket; subterrestrial and terrestrial.
DISTRIBUTION: Corozal, Orange Walk, Belize, and Cayo.

Family Bufonidae

Genus *Bufo* Laurenti

KEY TO THE SPECIES OF BUFO IN BELIZE

Large toads; length of parotoid gland equals or exceeds the distance between the tip of the snout and anterior border of tympanum; a well developed tarsal fold *marinus*
Medium sized toads; length of parotoid glands not exceeding distance from tip of snout to posterior border of eye; no tarsal fold *valliceps*

Bufo marinus (Linnaeus)

Bufo marinus: Schmidt, 1941:481; Neill and Allen, 1959a:20; Neill, 1965:80, 122.

HABITAT: Found in many habitats, but apparently absent or uncommon in rainforest; terrestrial.

DISTRIBUTION: Countrywide.

VERNACULAR NAMES: Spring chicken; the Caribs call it "hua" (Neill and Allen, 1959a).

Bufo valliceps Wiegmann

Bufo valliceps: Schmidt, 1941:482.

Bufo valliceps valliceps: Neill and Allen, 1959a:22; Neill, 1965:81, 122.

SUBSPECIES: *B. v. valliceps* Wiegmann.

DISTRIBUTION: Countrywide.

HABITAT: Found in a variety of habitats ranging from hilly pine parkland to rainforest; terrestrial, occasionally arboreal.

Family Leptodactylidae

KEY TO THE GENERA OF LEPTODACTYLIDAE IN BELIZE

1. Pustular, toadlike frogs; maxillary and premaxillary bones not bearing teeth *Physalaemus*
Smooth-skinned and non-toadlike frogs; maxillary and premaxillary bones bearing teeth 2
2. No conspicuous waist; sternum bearing bony style *Leptodactylus*
Constrictions at waist; sternum cartilaginous, no bony style 3
3. Less than six supernumerary tubercles on plantar surface *Eleutherodactylus*
More than eight supernumerary tubercles on plantar surface *Syrrophus*

Genus *Eleutherodactylus* Duméril and Bibron

KEY TO THE SPECIES OF *ELEUTHERODACTYLUS* IN BELIZE

1. Posterior surface of thighs dark with bold, light spots and reticulations *rugulosus*

- Posterior surface of thighs either light with faint dark spots or dark with or without inconspicuous, fine, light reticulations 2
2. A conspicuous dark anal patch, frequently triangular in shape; no transverse scapular fold *rostralis*
 No dark anal patch; transverse scapular fold present . *laticeps*

Eleutherodactylus laticeps (Duméril)

Eleutherodactylus stantoni Schmidt, 1941:483.
Eleutherodactylus laticeps: Neill, 1965:83, 122.
 HABITAT: Rainforest and jungle; terrestrial.
 DISTRIBUTION: Known only from Cayo.

Eleutherodactylus rostralis (Werner)

Eleutherodactylus rostralis: Neill, 1965:82, 122.
Eleutherodactylus rhodopsis: Schmidt, 1941:483.
 HABITAT: Rainforest and jungle; terrestrial and leaf litter.
 DISTRIBUTION: Southern two-thirds of country.

Eleutherodactylus rugulosus (Cope)

Eleutherodactylus ranoides: Schmidt, 1941:482, Neill, 1965:122.
Eleutherodactylus sandersoni Schmidt, 1941:485-486; Neill and Allen, 1961a:42; Neill, 1965:122.
Eleutherodactylus rugulosus rugulosus: Lynch, 1965:110; Neill, 1965:122.
Eleutherodactylus rugulosus: Savage, 1975:292.
 HABITAT: Rainforest, terrestrial.
 DISTRIBUTION: Stann Creek.

Genus *Leptodactylus* Fitzinger

KEY TO THE SPECIES OF *LEPTODACTYLUS* IN BELIZE

- Toes with conspicuous lateral, dermal fringe; males with two horny spines on thumb *melanonotus*
 Toes without lateral dermal fringe; males without black, horny tuberosities on thumb *labialis*

Leptodactylus labialis (Cope)

Leptodactylus labialis: Fugler, 1960:9; Neill and Allen, 1961a:38; Neill, 1965:86, 122.

HABITAT: Pine parkland, scrubby thickets, ruderal areas near human habitations, and pastures; terrestrial.

DISTRIBUTION: Countrywide.

Leptodactylus melanotus (Hallowell)

Leptodactylus melanotus: Atkinson, 1907:152; Schmidt, 1941:482; Neill and Allen, 1959a:23-4; Neill, 1960:6; Neill and Allen, 1961a:39-42; Neill, 1965:86-87, 122.

HABITAT: Swamp forest, jungle pools, and palm and pine savanna; terrestrial.

DISTRIBUTION: Countrywide.

Genus *Physalaemus* Fitzinger

Physalaemus pustulosus (Cope)

HABITAT: Orchards, cow pastures, and jungle pools; terrestrial.

DISTRIBUTION: Corozal, Orange Walk, and Belize.

REMARKS: This species has not been previously recorded from the country. Four specimens (MPM 7661-7664) of this small leptodactylid were taken on 4 October 1970 at Tower Hill, Orange Walk District between 2130 and 2330 hrs. It has been heard calling near Lemonal, Belize District, and we assume it also occurs in Corozal District.

Genus *Syrrhopus* Cope

Syrrhopus leprus Cope

Syrrhopus leprus: Neill and Allen, 1961a:43-44.

Syrrhopus leprus cholorum: Neill, 1965:85-86, 122.

HABITAT: Neill (1965:86) took specimens "on dirt roads in a well-forested area with shale outcroppings nearby".

DISTRIBUTION: Known only from Toledo.

Family Centrolenidae

Genus *Centrolenella* Noble

Centrolenella fleischmanni (Boettger)

HABITAT: Rainforest and jungle; usually associated with fast-moving streams; arboreal.

DISTRIBUTION: Known only from Mountain Pine Ridge, Cayo.

REMARKS: This species has not been previously recorded from Belize. A single individual (KU 156990) was taken at night on 31 August 1974. It was calling from vegetation over-hanging a swift-moving stream 2.2 mi N of San Luis, Cayo by Julian C. Lee (Univ. of Kansas).

Family Hylidae

KEY TO THE GENERA OF HYLIDAE IN BELIZE

1. Pupil vertically elliptical; dorsum usually bright green in life (bluish in preservative); eyes red in life *Agalychnis*
Pupil horizontally elliptical; dorsum variable; eyes never red 2
2. Skin of dorsal surface of head co-ossified with cranial bones *Triprion*
Skin of dorsal surface of head not co-ossified with cranial bones 3
3. Skin of dorsum thick, glandular, and tuberculate *Phrynohyas*
Skin of dorsum not thick, glandular and tuberculate 4
4. Males with paired subgular vocal sacs; dorsum with blotches, limbs barred *Smilisca*
Males with single, median, subgular vocal sacs; color variable *Hyla*

Genus *Agalychnis* Cope

KEY TO THE SPECIES OF AGALYCHNIS IN BELIZE

1. Flanks barred *callidryas*
Flank uniformly colored, lacking vertical or diagonal bars *moreleti*

Agalychnis callidryas (Cope)

Agalychnis callidryas: Schmidt, 1941:487.

Phyllomedusa callidryas taylori: Neill, 1965:122.

HABITAT: Rainforest and jungle; arboreal.

DISTRIBUTION: Corozal, Orange Walk, Cayo, and Stann Creek.

Agalychnis moreleti (Duméril)

Agalychnis moreletii: Schmidt, 1941:487; Duellman, 1970:113, 116.

Phyllomedusa moreletii: Neill, 1965:122.

HABITAT: Rainforest and jungle; arboreal.

DISTRIBUTION: Orange Walk and Cayo.

Genus *Hyla* Laurenti

KEY TO THE SPECIES OF *HYLA* IN BELIZE

1. Unpigmented or uniformly yellow thighs; dorsum usually yellow with darker markings 2
Thighs not uniformly colored or lacking pigment; dorsum not yellow 4
2. Dorsolateral white lines present, continuous to groin or nearly so *picta*
Dorsolateral white lines absent, or, if present, not extending posterior to sacrum 3
3. Dorsal pattern consisting of irregular dark dashes, usually forming an X-shaped mark in scapular region and an interorbital bar *microcephala*
Dorsal pattern consisting of dark hourglass-shaped mark, small spots, or nothing *ebraccata*
4. Acuminate protruding snout; dark longitudinal markings on gray or tan dorsum; webbing reduced between first and second toes *staufferi*
No acuminate protruding snout; well-developed web between first and second toes; dorsal pattern variable, not linear *loquax*

Hyla ebraccata Cope

Hyla ebraccata: Schmidt, 1941:486; Neill, 1965:122, Duellman, 1970:233.

HABITAT: Rainforest and jungle; arboreal.
DISTRIBUTION: Cayo.

Hyla loquax Gaige and Stuart

Hyla loquax: Schmidt, 1941:486; Neill, 1965:122.
HABITAT: Rainforest and jungle; arboreal.
DISTRIBUTION: Corozal, Orange Walk, Belize, Cayo, Stann Creek.

Hyla microcephala Cope

Hyla microcephala martini: Fugler, 1960:9-10; Neill and Allen, 1959a:26, Neill, 1965:87, 122.
Hyla microcephala underwoodi: Duellman, 1970:217.
SUBSPECIES: *H. m. underwoodi* Boulenger.
HABITAT: Jungle, swamp forests and scrubby thickets; arboreal.
DISTRIBUTION: Countrywide.

Hyla picta (Günther)

Hyla picta: Nieden, 1923:284; Neill, 1965:87, 122.
HABITAT: Rainforest, rainforest clearings and jungle; arboreal.
DISTRIBUTION: Probably countrywide.

Hyla staufferi Cope

Hyla staufferi: Schmidt, 1941:486-487; Neill and Allen, 1959a:26; Neill, 1960:6; Neill, 1965:88, 122.
SUBSPECIES: *H. s. staufferi* Cope.
HABITAT: Jungle, palm and pine savanna, cleared areas and often near human habitations; arboreal.
DISTRIBUTION: Probably countrywide.

Genus *Phrynohyas* Fitzinger

Phrynohyas venulosa (Laurenti)

Phrynohyas spilomma: Neill and Allen, 1959a:24-26; Neill and Allen, 1959c: 235-236; Neill, 1960:6; Neill, 1965:88-89, 122.
Phrynohyas venulosa: Duellman, 1970:172.

Phrynohyas modesta: Fugler, 1960:10.
HABITAT: Scrubby thickets, riverside thickets, cocotal, and gardens; arboreal.
DISTRIBUTION: Countrywide.
VERNACULAR NAME: Spring chicken (Neill and Allen, 1959a).

Genus *Smilisca* Cope
Smilisca baudinii (Duméril and Bibron)

Hyla baudinii: Schmidt, 1941:486.
Smilisca baudinii baudinii: Neill and Allen, 1959a:26-27.
Smilisca baudinii: Duellman and Trueb, 1966:289; Neill, 1965:89, 122.
HABITAT: Jungle, cohune ridge, banana and coconut groves, scrubby thicket, and human habitations; arboreal.
DISTRIBUTION: Countrywide.

Genus *Triprion* Cope
Triprion petasatus (Cope)

Triprion petasatus: Hoevers and Henderson, 1974:1.
HABITAT: Scrubby thicket; arboreal.
DISTRIBUTION: Corozal and northeastern Orange Walk.

Family Microhylidae

KEY TO THE GENERA OF MICROHYLIDAE IN BELIZE

Only an inner metatarsal tubercle present . . . *Gastrophryne*
Inner and outer metatarsal tubercles present . . . *Hypopachus*

Genus *Gastrophryne* Fitzinger
Gastrophryne elegans (Boulenger)

HABITAT: Scrubby thicket; subterrestrial and leaf litter.
DISTRIBUTION: Northern Orange Walk.
REMARKS: This species has not been previously recorded from Belize. On 12 April 1969 a single specimen of *G. elegans* was taken at the edge of a cenote on Albion Island in the Rio Hondo on the Belize-Mexico boundary in Orange Walk District. Unfortunately, the specimen has been misplaced.

Genus *Hypopachus* Keferstein
Hypopachus variolosus (Cope)

Hypopachus cuneus nigroreticulatus: Fugler, 1960:10-11; Neill, 1965:122.

HABITAT: Open grassland, pine parkland, and disturbed forest; subterrestrial, leaf litter, and terrestrial.

DISTRIBUTION: Corozal, Orange Walk, Belize, and Stann Creek.

Family Ranidae

Genus *Rana* Linnaeus

KEY TO THE SPECIES OF *RANA* IN BELIZE

1. Heel reaches well beyond snout; fully webbed between third and fourth toes *berlandieri*
Heel barely reaches nostril or slightly beyond; usually not fully webbed between third and fourth toes 2
2. White supralabial stripe *maculata*
No white supralabial stripe *palmipes*

Rana berlandieri Baird

Rana pipiens berlandieri: Schmidt, 1941:487.

Rana pipiens austricola: Neill and Allen, 1959a:27.

Rana maculata Brocchi

Rana maculata: Lee, in press.

HABITAT: Pine parkland; terrestrial.

DISTRIBUTION: Known only from Little Vaquero Creek, Mountain Pine Ridge, Cayo.

Rana palmipes Spix

Rana palmipes: Schmidt, 1941:487; Neill and Allen, 1959a:27; Neill, 1965:89, 122.

HABITAT: Rainforest pools and river edge; terrestrial.

DISTRIBUTION: Countrywide except for Corozal.

VERNACULAR NAME: Spring chicken.

Rana pipiens: Neill, 1965:89, 122.

HABITAT: A variety of habitats including fast and slow rivers, swamp forest, lagoons, and pine parkland; terrestrial.

DISTRIBUTION: Countrywide.

VERNACULAR NAME: Spring chicken.

CLASS REPTILIA
Order SQUAMATA
Suborder Sauria
Family Gekkonidae

KEY TO THE GENERA OF GEKKONIDAE IN BELIZE

1. Eyelid fully developed *Coleonyx*
Eyelid lacking 2
2. A single widened terminal lamella on digits with the claw lateral to it; supraocular spine present; diminutive in size *Sphaerodactylus*
Digits with one or several pairs of widened lamellae; no supraocular spine; size larger 3
3. A single terminal pair of digital lamellae, the claw between them *Phyllodactylus*
Part of under surface of digits widened with a single or double series of lamellae, usually not present under terminal joint 4
4. Subdigital lamellae undivided, in a single row . . . *Aristelliger*
Subdigital lamellae in two rows, divided medially *Thecadactylus*

Genus *Aristelliger* Cope
Aristelliger georgeensis (Bocourt)

Idiodactylus georgeensis Bocourt, 1873:41.

Aristelliger georgeensis: Schmidt, 1941:480, 490; Neill, 1965:122.

HABITAT: Cocotal; arboreal.

DISTRIBUTION: Coastal Corozal and Belize, on most northern cays; southern distribution unknown.

VERNACULAR NAMES: Weatherman, escorpion.

Genus *Coleonyx* Gray
Coleonyx elegans Gray

Coleonyx elegans Gray, 1845:163; Schmidt, 1941:480, 489.
Coleonyx elegans elegans: Neill and Allen, 1962:82-93; Neill, 1965: 90, 122.

SUBSPECIES: *C. e. elegans* Gray.

HABITAT: Rainforest, jungle, land cleared of forest; terrestrial.

DISTRIBUTION: Countrywide.

VERNACULAR NAME: Escorpion.

Genus *Phyllodactylus* Gray

KEY TO THE SPECIES OF *PHYLLODACTYLUS* IN BELIZE

Tubercles from axilla to groin 26 or more; paravertebral tubercles 46 or more *insularis*
Tubercles from axilla to groin 26 or less; paravertebral tubercles 44 or less *tuberculosus*

Phyllodactylus insularis Dixon

Phyllodactylus insularis Dixon, 1960:9; Neill and Allen, 1962:83-84; Dixon, 1964:78; Neill, 1965:123.

HABITAT: Cocotal; arboreal.

DISTRIBUTION: Known only from Half Moon Cay (Lighthouse Reef).

VERNACULAR NAME: Probably escorpion.

Phyllodactylus tuberculosus Wiegmann

Phyllodactylus lanei: Schmidt, 1941:490.

Phyllodactylus tuberculosus lanei: Neill and Allen, 1959a:34.

Phyllodactylus tuberculosus "lanei"; Neill and Allen, 1962:83-84.

Phyllodactylus tuberculosus ingeri: Dixon, 1964:36.

SUBSPECIES: *P. t. ingeri* Dixon.

HABITAT: Cocotal, scrubby thicket, mangrove swamp, and edificarian situations; arboreal.

DISTRIBUTION: Entire coast and many cays.

VERNACULAR NAME: Escorpion.

Genus *Sphaerodactylus* Wagler
Sphaerodactylus glaucus Cope

Sphaerodactylus glaucus: Schmidt, 1941:489.

Sphaerodactylus lineolatus: Schmidt, 1941:489.

Sphaerodactylus glaucus glaucus: Neill and Allen, 1959b:33-34; Neill and Allen, 1962:84-85; Neill, 1965:90, 123.

Sphaerodactylus continentalis: Neill, 1965:123.

SUBSPECIES: *S. g. glaucus* Cope.

HABITAT: Cocotal, scrubby thickets, and edificarian situations; leaf litter and arboreal.

DISTRIBUTION: All districts and on many cays.

VERNACULAR NAME: Escorpion.

REMARKS: Schmidt (1941) and Neill (1965) included *S. lineolatus* and *S. continentalis*, respectively, in their checklists. We have examined the specimens Schmidt declared *S. lineolatus* and all proved to be *S. glaucus* as were all other *Sphaerodactylus* we examined.

Genus *Thecadactylus* Gray
Thecadactylus rapicauda (Houttuyn)

Thecadactylus rapicauda: Neill and Allen, 1962:85; Neill, 1965: 123.

Thecadactylus rapicaudus: Günther, 1885-1902:81; Neill and Allen, 1959c:236; Neill and Allen, 1961a:49.

HABITAT: Rainforest and jungle; arboreal.

DISTRIBUTION: Cayo and Toledo.

VERNACULAR NAME: Escorpion.

Family Xantusiidae

Genus *Lepidophyma* A. Duméril

Lepidophyma flavimaculatum A. Duméril

Lepidophyma flavimaculatum: Schmidt, 1941:495.

Lepidophyma flavimaculatum flavimaculatum: Neill, 1965:123.

SUBSPECIES: *L. f. flavimaculatum* A. Duméril.

HABITAT: Rainforest and jungle; terrestrial.

DISTRIBUTION: Cayo and Stann Creek.

Family IGUANIDAE

KEY TO THE GENERA OF IGUANIDAE IN BELIZE

moral pores present	2
moral pores absent	4
dorsal and lateral surfaces of tail with whorls of greatly enlarged, sharp, rigid scales separated by smaller granular scales	<i>Ctenosaura</i>
scales of tail (except middorsal row) more or less uniform in size, never conspicuous whorls of greatly enlarged rigid scales	3
well-developed longitudinal chin fold	<i>Iguana</i>
no longitudinal chin fold	<i>Sceloporus</i>
head either produced posteriorly to overhang neck or with dorsal crest (except in juveniles)	5
head not produced posteriorly to overhang neck; no crest	<i>Anolis</i>
no dorsal crest but head produced posteriorly to overhang neck	<i>Laemancus</i>
head with a dorsal crest which may continue onto body	6
ventral scales on body large, numbering fewer than 35 between the levels of axilla and groin	<i>Corytophanes</i>
ventral scales smaller, numbering at least 40 between axilla and groin levels	<i>Basiliscus</i>

Genus *Anolis* Daudin

KEY TO THE SPECIES OF ANOLIS IN BELIZE

tail laterally compressed	<i>sagrei</i>
tail round or ovoid in cross section	2
length of lower leg greatly exceeding distance from tip of snout to ear opening	<i>capito</i>
length of lower leg not or but slightly exceeding distance from tip of snout to ear opening	3
lateral ventral scales at midbody very weakly keeled, subconical, smooth and flat	4
lateral ventral scales at midbody distinctly and often strongly keeled	6

4. Length of lower leg shorter than distance from tip of snout to posterior border of eye 5
Length of lower leg longer than distance from tip of snout to posterior border of eye *limifrons*
5. Ventrals weakly keeled; tail never with a crest . . . *carolinensis*
Ventrals smooth; tail sometimes with a crest . . . *pentaprion*
6. Six to twelve rows of enlarged dorsal scales strongly and abruptly differentiated from lateral scales 7
Enlarged dorsal scales, if present, grading into laterals . . . 8
7. Length of lower leg as long as distance from tip of snout to ear opening *tropidonotus*
Length of lower leg shorter than distance from tip of snout to ear opening *humilis*
8. About 10-15 rows of dorsal scales differentiated from laterals *sericeus*
Only 2-4 rows of dorsal scales differentiated from laterals, or dorsals and laterals subequal 9
9. Length of lower leg shorter than distance from tip of snout to posterior border of eye 10
Length of lower leg at least as long as distance from tip of snout to posterior border of eye 11
10. Dorsals and laterals subequal; well developed canthal ridges in males; large and robust *allisoni*
Two to four dorsal scale rows differentiated from laterals; males without well developed canthal ridges; small and slender *nannodes*
11. Length of lower leg equal to or slightly exceeding distance from tip of snout and posterior border of eye . . . *biporcatus*
Length of lower leg greatly exceeding distance from tip of snout to posterior border of eye *lemurinus*

Anolis allisoni Barbour

Anolis allisoni: Schmidt, 1941:493; Ruibal and Williams, 1961:194; Neill and Allen, 1962:80; Neill, 1965:123; Williams, 1969:358.

HABITAT: Cocotal on cays; arboreal.

DISTRIBUTION: Only known from Half Moon Cay (Light-house Reef).

Anolis biporcatus (Wiegmann)

Anolis biporcatus: Schmidt, 1941:491; Neill, 1965:90, 123.

SUBSPECIES: *A. b. biporcatus* (Wiegmann).

HABITAT: Rainforest and jungle; arboreal.

DISTRIBUTION: Orange Walk, Cayo, Stann Creek, Toledo.

Anolis capito Peters

Anolis capito: Schmidt, 1941:491; Neill and Allen, 1959a:35; Neill, 1965:123.

HABITAT: Rainforest, jungle and associated clearings; arboreal.

DISTRIBUTION: Southern Cayo, Stann Creek, possibly Toledo.

Anolis carolinensis Voigt

HABITAT: Presumably cocotal; terrestrial and arboreal.

DISTRIBUTION: Known only from Half Moon Cay.

REMARKS: This species has not been previously recorded from Belize. A single individual was taken on 9 April 1966 on Half Moon Cay by Warren Prince. It is unknown if the species is established on the island. The specimen is in the Florida State Museum, University of Florida (UF 23620).

Anolis humilis Peters

Anolis ruthveni: Schmidt, 1941:492.

Anolis humilis uniformis: Neill and Allen, 1959a:35; Neill, 1965:90-91, 123.

SUBSPECIES: *A. h. uniformis* Cope.

HABITAT: Rainforest, jungle, and cohune ridge; terrestrial and arboreal.

DISTRIBUTION: Countrywide, exclusive of Corozal.

Anolis lemurinus Cope

Anolis bourgeaei: Schmidt, 1941:491.

Anolis lemurinus bourgeaei: Neill and Allen, 1959a:35; Neill, 1965:91, 123.

Anolis species: Neill and Allen, 1959a:37.

SUBSPECIES: *A. l. bourgeaei* Bocourt.

HABITAT: Rainforest and jungle clearings, streamside thickets, scrubby thickets, mangrove edge, and cocotal; terrestrial and arboreal.

DISTRIBUTION: Countrywide.

Anolis limifrons Cope

Anolis aureolus: Schmidt, 1941:490.

Anolis limifrons rodriguezi: Neill and Allen, 1959a:35; Neill, 1965:91, 123.

SUBSPECIES: *A. l. rodriguezi* Bocourt.

HABITAT: Jungle clearings, scrub forest, and cocotal; terrestrial and arboreal.

DISTRIBUTION: Probably countrywide including some cays.

Anolis nannodes Cope

Anolis intermedius: Fugler, 1960:11

Anolis nannodes: Neill, 1965:93, 123.

HABITAT: Rainforest and jungle.

DISTRIBUTION: Known only from Chiquibul Forest, Cayo.

REMARKS: The occurrence of this anole in Belize is questionable. Fugler (1960:11) reported a single specimen of *A. intermedius* from Belize, but Neill (1965:93) reasoned that the specimen was more likely *A. nannodes* than *A. intermedius*. We have been unable to locate the specimen to verify its identity.

Anolis pentaprion Cope

Anolis beckeri: Schmidt, 1941:491.

Anolis pentaprion beckeri: Neill, 1965:123.

HABITAT: Unknown.

DISTRIBUTION: The only specimen known from the country was supposedly taken at Belize City, Belize, but we feel that the area is doubtful habitat for the species.

Anolis sagrei Duméril and Bibron

Anolis sagrei: Schmidt, 1941:492; Williams, 1969:364-365.

Anolis sagrei sagrei: Stuart, 1955:22; Duellman, 1965:596.

Anolis sagrei mayensis: Neill and Allen, 1959a:34-35; Neill and Allen, 1962:80-82; Neill, 1965:91-93, 123; Fugler, 1968:96-97.

SUBSPECIES: *A. s. mayensis* Smith and Burger.

HABITAT: Cocotal, scrubby thickets, mangrove and mangrove edge, and edificarian situations; arboreal.

DISTRIBUTION: The entire coast, many cays, and Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk.

VERNACULAR NAMES: Cock maklala and, according to Neill and Allen (1959a), "hu wa" in Carib.

Anolis sericeus Hallowell

Anolis ustus Cope, 1864:172; Schmidt, 1941:493; Allen and Neill, 1959c:231.

Anolis sericeus: Schmidt, 1941:492; Neill and Allen, 1959a:35.

Anolis sericeus sericeus: Neill, 1965:123.

Anolis sericeus ustus: Duellman, 1965:596-597.

SUBSPECIES: *A. s. ustus* Cope.

HABITAT: Streamside and scrubby thickets and jungle clearings; leaf litter and arboreal.

DISTRIBUTION: Probably countrywide.

Anolis tropidonotus Peters

Anolis tropidonotus: Schmidt, 1941:493.

Anolis tropidonotus tropidonotus: Neill, 1965:123.

SUBSPECIES: *A. t. tropidonotus* Peters.

HABITAT: Rainforest and jungle clearings, and well-shaded, cultivated groves and orchards; leaf litter and arboreal.

DISTRIBUTION: Orange Walk and Cayo.

Genus *Basiliscus* Laurenti

Basiliscus vittatus Wiegmann

Basiliscus vittatus: Schmidt, 1941:493; Neill and Allen, 1959a: 37-38; Neill, 1960:7; Neill, 1965:93-95, 123.

HABITAT: Jungle, scrubby thicket, palm and pine savanna, pine parkland, streamside thicket, mangrove edge; often found in the vicinity of human habitations; terrestrial and arboreal.

DISTRIBUTION: Countrywide.

VERNACULAR NAMES: Maklakka, cock lizard, cock maklala.

Genus *Corytophanes* Boie

KEY TO THE SPECIES OF *CORYTOPHANES* IN BELIZE

Head crest not continuous with dorsal body crest; broken over shoulders *hernandesi*
Head crest continuous with dorsal body crest . . . *cristatus*

Corytophanes cristatus (Merrem)

Corytophanes cristatus: Schmidt, 1941:494; Davis, 1953:3;
Neill and Allen, 1959a:39; Neill, 1960:7.

Corytophanes cristatus: Neill, 1965:95, 123.

HABITAT: Rainforest and jungle; arboreal.

DISTRIBUTION: Western Orange Walk, Cayo, Stann Creek and
Toledo.

VERNACULAR NAMES: Old man; probably names for *Basiliscus*
also apply here.

Corytophanes hernandesi (Wiegmann)

Corytophanes hernandezii: Schmidt, 1941:494; Davis, 1953:3;
Neill and Allen, 1959a:39.

Corytophanes hernandesi: Neill, 1965:95, 123.

HABITAT: Rainforest and jungle; arboreal.

DISTRIBUTION: Western Orange Walk, Cayo, Stann Creek,
and Toledo.

VERNACULAR NAMES: Probably those applying to *C. cristatus*
and *Basiliscus* also apply here.

Genus *Ctenosaura* Wiegmann

Ctenosaura similis (Gray)

Ctenosaura similis: Schmidt, 1941:494.

Ctenosaura similis similis: Neill and Allen, 1959a:39-40; Neill
and Allen, 1962:82; Neill, 1965:96, 123; Henderson, 1973:27-33.

SUBSPECIES: *C. s. similis* (Gray)

HABITAT: Scrubby thicket, palm and pine savanna, pine
parkland, mangrove swamp, sand strand, cocotal, and edificarian;
terrestrial and arboreal.

DISTRIBUTION: Countrywide including many cays.

VERNACULAR NAME: Wish-willy.

Genus *Iguana* Laurenti
Iguana iguana (Linnaeus)

Iguana iguana rhinolopha: Schmidt, 1941:494; Neill and Allen, 1959a:40-42; Neill and Allen, 1962:82; Neill, 1965:123; Henderson, 1974b:327.

Iguana iguana: Henderson, 1973:29.

HABITAT: Riparian rainforest and jungle; occasionally scrubby thickets, mangroves, and cocotal; terrestrial and arboreal.

DISTRIBUTION: Countrywide including Half Moon Cay.

VERNACULAR NAME: Iguana and bamboo chicken.

Genus *Laemancus* Wiegmann

KEY TO THE SPECIES OF LAEMANCTUS IN BELIZE

A series of projecting triangular scales on the posterior contour of the head *serratus*
No distinct serration on the posterior contour of head *longipes*

Laemancus longipes Wiegmann

Laemancus deborrei: Schmidt, 1941:494; Neill and Allen, 1959a:39; Neill, 1960:7; Neill, 1965:123.

Laemancus longipes deborrei: McCoy, 1968:668-670.

SUBSPECIES: *L. l. deborrei* Boulenger.

HABITAT: Rainforest; arboreal.

DISTRIBUTION: Western Orange Walk, Cayo, Stann Creek, and Toledo.

VERNACULAR NAME: Names that apply to *Basiliscus* and *Corytophanes* probably apply here.

Laemancus serratus Cope

SUBSPECIES: *L. s. alticoronatus* Cope.

HABITAT: Scrub forest; arboreal.

DISTRIBUTION: Corozal.

VERNACULAR NAMES: As for *L. longipes*.

REMARKS: This species has not been previously recorded from Belize. The single known specimen was an apparent road kill at a locality 3 mi S of Santa Elena, Corozal District. It was collected

by James L. Knight (JLK 404) of Hays, Kansas and it remains in his private collection.

Genus *Sceloporus* Wiegmann

KEY TO THE SPECIES OF *SCELOPORUS* IN BELIZE

1. A post-femoral dermal pocket *teapensis*
No post-femoral dermal pocket. 2
2. Dorsal pattern such as to give impression of a dorsolateral light stripe on either side *chrysostictus*
Dorsal pattern variable but never giving impression of a dorsolateral light stripe on either side *lundelli*

Sceloporus chrysostictus Cope

Sceloporus chrysostictus: Schmidt, 1941:494; Neill and Allen, 1959a:43; Neill, 1960:6; Neill, 1965:123.

HABITAT: Palm and pine savanna, jungle clearings; and scrub thicket; terrestrial.

DISTRIBUTION: Probably countrywide.

Sceloporus lundelli Smith

Sceloporus lundelli Smith, 1939:66.

Sceloporus lundelli lundelli: Schmidt, 1941:495; Neill, 1960:5; Neill, 1965:123.

SUBSPECIES: *S. l. lundelli* Smith.

HABITAT: Rainforest; terrestrial and arboreal.

DISTRIBUTION: Cayo.

Sceloporus teapensis Günther

Sceloporus teapensis; Schmidt, 1941:495; Neill and Allen, 1959a:42; Neill and Allen, 1962:82; Neill, 1965:96, 123.

HABITAT: Savanna, berm, pine parkland, scrubby thicket, jungle clearings, gardens, and edificarian situations; terrestrial.

DISTRIBUTION: Countrywide.

Family Scincidae

KEY TO THE GENERA OF SCINCIDAE IN BELIZE

1. Supranasals (or internasals, depending on interpretation absent
Supranasals present*Scincella* 2
2. Enlarged and well-differentiated scales between eye and auricular opening*Eumece*
Scales of temporal region not enlarged or well-differentiated, similar to lateral body scales*Mabuya*

Genus *Eumece* Wiegmann

KEY TO THE SPECIES OF EUMECES IN BELIZE

- Middorsal scales much broader than those of paravertebral region*schwartzei*
Middorsal scales not conspicuously larger than those of paravertebral regions*sumichrasti*

Eumece schwartzei Fischer

Eumece schwartzei: Schmidt, 1941:496; Neill, 1965:98, 123.
HABITAT: Uncertain, but probably rainforest and jungle; leaf litter.

DISTRIBUTION: Known only from Gallon Jug, Orange Walk.
REMARKS: Schmidt's (1941:496) specimen is actually *Celastus rozellae*.

Eumece sumichrasti (Cope)

Eumece sumichrasti: Schmidt, 1941:496; Taylor, 1935:185; Neill, 1965:123.

HABITAT: Rainforest, jungle, cohune ridge, terrestrial.
DISTRIBUTION: Cayo.

Genus *Mabuya* Fitzinger

Mabuya brachypoda Taylor

Mabuya brachypodus: Neill and Allen, 1959a:45; Neill and Allen, 1962:85; Neill, 1965:98-99, 123.

Mabuya mabouya mabouya: Schmidt, 1941:496.

HABITAT: Jungle, orchards, banana groves, cocotal, cohune ridge, pine parkland, stream thickets, sand strand, on and around thatch roofs, and clearings in *Avicennia* forest; terrestrial.

DISTRIBUTION: Countrywide.

VERNACULAR NAME: Snake waiting boy, "merech" in Mayan.

Genus *Scincella* Mittleman

Scincella cherriei (Cope)

Leilopisma assatum: Schmidt, 1941:496.

Lygosoma assatum assatum: Neill and Allen, 1959a:45.

Lygosoma cherriei ixbaac: Neill, 1965:123.

SUBSPECIES: *S. c. ixbaac* (Stuart).

HABITAT: Rainforest, jungle, pine parkland; terrestrial.

DISTRIBUTION: Countrywide.

VERNACULAR NAME: Galliwasps.

Family Teiidae

KEY TO THE GENERA OF TEIIDAE IN BELIZE

A single row of enlarged scales (brachials) on anterior surface of upper arm *Ameiva*
Three or more rows of enlarged scales on anterior and dorsal surfaces of upper arm. *Cnemidophorus*

Genus *Ameiva* Meyer

KEY TO THE SPECIES OF AMEIVA IN BELIZE

Midgular scales much enlarged; lateralmost ventrals narrower than other ventrals; narrow, lightcolored vertebral stripe present except in large adults. *festiva*
Midgular scales slightly enlarged; lateralmost ventrals about equal to other ventrals; no vertebral stripe *undulata*

Ameiva festiva (Lichtenstein and Von Martens)

Ameiva festiva: Barbour and Noble, 1916:473; Schmidt, 1941: 495.

Ameiva festiva edwardsi: Neill, 1965:96, 123.
HABITAT: Rainforest and jungle; terrestrial.
DISTRIBUTION: Western and southern forests.

Ameiva undulata (Wiegmann)

Ameiva undulata: Schmidt, 1941:495.
Ameiva undulata hartwegi: Neill and Allen, 1959a:43; Neill, 1965:96-98.
Ameiva species: Neill and Allen, 1961a:49-50.
Ameiva undulata gaigeae: Neill, 1965:98, 123; Neill and Allen, 1961a:49-50.
HABITAT: Rainforest and jungle trails, riverbanks, scrubby thicket, open pine parkland, gardens, sand strand, and cocotal; terrestrial.
DISTRIBUTION: Countrywide, including some cays.

Genus *Cnemidophorus* Wagler

KEY TO THE SPECIES OF *CNEMIDOPHORUS* IN BELIZE

Four supraoculars; vertebral stripe present . . . *angusticeps*
Usually three supraoculars; no vertebral stripe . . . *cozumela*

Cnemidophorus angusticeps Cope

Cnemidophorus gularis: Neill and Allen, 1959a:43-44; Neill and Allen, 1959c:236-237.
Cnemidophorus sacki angusticeps: Fugler, 1960:11.
Cnemidophorus angusticeps petenensis Beargie and McCoy, 1964:561; Neill, 1965:123.
SUBSPECIES: *C. a. petenensis* Bearbie and McCoy.
HABITAT: Palm and pine savanna, and ruderal; terrestrial.
DISTRIBUTION: Belize and Stann Creek.

Cnemidophorus cozumela Gadow

Cnemidophorus cozumelus: McCoy and Maslin, 1962:620, 623.
SUBSPECIES: *C. c. maslini* Fritts.
HABITAT: Savanna, parkland, and scrub thicket edge; terrestrial.
DISTRIBUTION: Corozal, eastern Orange Walk, Belize.

REMARKS: This species has not been previously recorded from Belize. Three specimens (MPM 7545-46, 7726) were taken at Tower Hill (near Orange Walk Town), Orange Walk District on, respectively, 2 August 1971, 8 February 1973, and in June 1969. Another specimen, MPM 7727, was taken at Guinea Grass, Orange Walk District on 9 June 1971. Another specimen, in the Field Museum of Natural History (FMNH 5823), was taken at Manatee, Belize District.

Family Anguidae

Genus *Celestus* Gray

Celestus rozellae Smith

Celestus rozellae: Neill, 1965:123.

Celestus steindachneri: Schmidt, 1941:495.

HABITAT: Rainforest and jungle; terrestrial.

DISTRIBUTION: Cayo, Stann Creek.

Suborder Serpentes

Family Leptotyphlopidae

Genus *Leptotyphlops* Fitzinger

Leptotyphlops goudotii (Duméril and Bibron)

Leptotyphlops phenops: McCoy, 1970:139.

SUBSPECIES: *L. g. phenops* (Cope).

REMARKS: There is no positive record for this species in Belize. McCoy (1970:139) mentions its occurrence in Belize, but does not cite his source. The junior author examined a *Leptotyphlops* from Chunox, Corozal District but was unable to make a positive identification as to species. Most likely it was *L. goudotii*.

Family Boidae

Genus *Boa* Linnaeus

Boa constrictor Linnaeus

Constrictor constrictor imperator: Schmidt, 1941:496; Neill and Allen, 1959a:46; Neill, 1960:11.

Boa constrictor imperator: Neill and Allen, 1962:85-86; Neill, 1962:241-242; Neill, 1965:99, 123; McCoy, 1970:136.

SUBSPECIES: *B. c. imperator* Daudin.

HABITAT: Rainforest, jungle, pine parkland, scrubby thickets, and mangrove swamps; terrestrial and arboreal.

DISTRIBUTION: Countrywide including most of the larger cays.

VERNACULAR NAMES: Wowla, wowler, owla, and boa; Caribs call it "wanasai" (Neill and Allen, 1959a).

Family Colubridae

KEY TO THE GENERA OF COLUBRIDAE IN BELIZE

1. Dorsal scales in an even number of rows *Spilotes*
Dorsal scales in an odd number of rows 2
2. Mental groove present 3
Mental groove absent *Dipsas*
3. Anal plate entire 4
Anal plate divided 15
4. Number of dorsal rows not reduced between about midbody and level of anus 5
More dorsal scale rows at midbody than at level of anus . . 8
5. Dorsal scales in 15 rows *Sibon*
Dorsal scales in 17 to 19 rows 6
6. Generally more than 195 ventrals *Clelia*
Generally fewer than 195 ventrals 7
7. Dorsal scales in 19 rows *Ninia*
Dorsal scales in 17 rows *Tropidodipsas*
8. Dorsal scales keeled over all or part of body 9
Dorsal scales all smooth 11
9. Maximum number of dorsal scale rows less than 21. . . . 10
Maximum number of dorsal scale rows more than 21. *Pseustes*
10. Dorsal scales in 17 midbody rows *Dendrophidion*
Dorsal scales in 19 midbody rows *Thamnophis*
11. Dorsal scale rows 17-15 *Drymarchon*
Dorsal scale rows generally greater than 17-15 12

- 12. Dorsal scale rows generally more than 19-21-19 *Lampropeltis*
 Dorsal scale rows 19-17 13
- 13. Ventrals fewer than 150 *Xenodon*
 Ventrals more than 150 14
- 14. Dorsal body pattern of light and dark annuli . . . *Oxyrhopus*
 Dorsal body pattern unicolor or somewhat spotted . . *Clelia*
- 15. Number of dorsal scale rows greater at about midbody than
 at level of anus 16
 Number of dorsal scale rows not reduced between about
 midbody and level of anus 26
- 16. Some or all of dorsal scales keeled, sometimes very weakly. 17
 All dorsal body scales smooth 21
- 17. Dorsal scale rows 15-11. *Leptophis*
 Dorsal scale rows greater than 15-11 18
- 18. Maximum number of dorsal scale rows 17 19
 Maximum number of dorsal scale rows 21 or more. 20
- 19. No loreal, prefrontals in contact with supralabials . *Oxybelis*
 A loreal shield present *Drymobius*
- 20. Dorsal scale rows 21-19-17 *Tretanorhinus*
 Dorsal scale rows exceeding 21-19-17 *Elaphe*
- 21. Dorsal scale rows not exceeding 17-15 22
 Dorsal scale rows exceeding 17-15 24
- 22. A small subocular below preocular 23
 No subocular below preocular *Mastigodryas*
- 23. Supralabials 7; ventrals more than 180 *Masticophis*
 Supralabials 8; ventrals less than 170 *Coluber*
- 24. Dorsum of body either unicolor or striped 25
 Dorsal body pattern of spots, blotches, or saddles *Leptodeira*
- 25. A single anterior temporal *Coniophanes*
 Two or three anterior temporals *Conophis*
- 26. Maximum number of scale rows 15. 27
 Maximum number of dorsal scale rows 17 or more. 28

27. Third or second and third infralabials reduced in width, very narrow and confined to lip border *Adelphicos*
 No infralabials reduced in width, all normal in shape and size *Tantilla*
28. Rostral upturned anteriorly with a sharp, free edge and in contact with frontal *Ficimia*
 Rostral normal and not in contact with frontal. 29
29. Dorsum with light and dark bands at least anteriorly on body 30
 Dorsal pattern of spots, stripes, blotches or saddles, or unicolor 31
30. Bands confined to anterior part of body; posteriorly small spots arranged in longitudinal rows. *Scaphiodontophis*
 Bands present throughout entire length of body . *Pliocercus*
31. Head much broader than neck; ventrals generally more than 215, subcaudals more than 120. *Imantodes*
 Head not greatly broadened; ventrals less than 215, subcaudals fewer than 120. 32
32. Tail very short, subcaudals fewer than 50. *Stenorhina*
 Tail longer, subcaudals more than 50 *Amastridium*

Genus *Adelphicos* Jan

Adelphicos quadrivirgatus Jan

Adelphicos visoninus: Schmidt, 1941:503.

Adelphicos quadrivirgatus visoninus: Neill, 1965:124.

SUBSPECIES: *A. q. visoninus* (Cope)

HABITAT: Probably rainforest and jungle; subterrestrial.

DISTRIBUTION: Belize and Stann Creek.

Genus *Amastridium* Cope

Amastridium veliferum Cope

Amastridium veliferum: McCoy, 1970:135-138; Hoevers and Henderson, 1974:1.

Amastridium veliferum sapperi: Smith, 1971:254-255.

SUBSPECIES: *A. v. sapperi* (Werner).

HABITAT: Known only from riparian jungle and citrus grove;

terrestrial.

DISTRIBUTION: Stann Creek and Toledo.

Genus *Clelia* Fitzinger

KEY TO THE SPECIES OF *CLELIA* IN BELIZE

- Dorsal scales in 17 midbody rows *scytalina*
Dorsal scales in 19 midbody rows *clelia*

Clelia clelia (Daudin)

Clelia clelia: Schmidt, 1941:506; Neill, 1965:100, 124.

Clelia clelia clelia: Neill, 1960:5.

SUBSPECIES: *C. c. clelia* (Daudin)

HABITAT: Rainforest, jungle; terrestrial.

DISTRIBUTION: Cayo and Stann Creek.

Clelia scytalina (Cope)

Clelia scytalina: Hoevers and Henderson, 1974:2.

HABITAT: Jungle and cleared land; terrestrial.

DISTRIBUTION: Corozal and northeastern Orange Walk.

Genus *Coluber* Linnaeus

Coluber constrictor Linnaeus

Coluber constrictor stejnegerianus: Hoevers and Henderson, 1974:2.

SUBSPECIES: *C. c. oaxaca* (Jan).

HABITAT: Grassland of open pine parkland; terrestrial.

DISTRIBUTION: Cayo and Stann Creek.

Genus *Coniophanes* Hallowell

KEY TO THE SPECIES OF *CONIOPHANES* IN BELIZE

1. Dorsal scales in 23 to 25 rows *schmidti*
Dorsal scales in 21 rows or less 2
2. A maximum of 19 dorsal scale rows *imperialis*
Dorsal scales in 21 longitudinal rows 3

3. A large, dark rounded spot on the outer edge of each abdominal scute *bipunctatus*
Most abdominal scutes with a very small dark spot on outer edge *fissidens*

Coniophanes bipunctatus (Günther)

Coniophanes bipunctatus: Schmidt, 1941:480, 504; McCoy, 1970:136.

Coniophanes bipunctatus bipunctatus: Neill, 1965:124.

SUBSPECIES: *C. b. bipunctatus* (Günther)

HABITAT: Swamp forest, jungle, citrus groves, and streamside thicket; terrestrial and semi-aquatic.

DISTRIBUTION: Orange Walk, Cayo, and Stann Creek.

Coniophanes fissidens (Günther)

Coniophanes fissidens fissidens: Schmidt, 1941:504; Neill, 1965:124.

SUBSPECIES: *C. f. fissidens* (Günther).

HABITAT: Rainforest and jungle; terrestrial.

DISTRIBUTION: Belize, Cayo and Stann Creek.

Coniophanes imperialis (Baird and Girard)

Coniophanes imperialis clavatus: Schmidt, 1941:504; Neill, 1965:100, 124; McCoy, 1970:136.

SUBSPECIES: *C. i. clavatus* (Peters).

HABITAT: Rainforest, jungle, pastures, streamside thickets, open parkland, and gardens; subterrestrial.

DISTRIBUTION: Countrywide.

Coniophanes schmidti Bailey

Coniophanes schmidti: Neill and Allen, 1960:145-146; Neill and Allen, 1962:87; Neill, 1965:124.

HABITAT: The only specimen known from Belize "was taken on a rocky hillside of Mountain Pine Ridge" (= pine parkland) (Neill and Allen, 1960:145); terrestrial.

DISTRIBUTION: Known only from the vicinity of Augustine, Cayo.

Genus *Conophis* Peters

Conophis lineatus (Duméril, Bibron, and Duméril)

Conophis lineatus dunnii: Neill and Allen, 1959a:56; Neill and Allen, 1960:146-148; Neill and Allen, 1961a:44-46; Wellman, 1963:264; Neill, 1965:124.

Conophis concolor: Neill and Allen, 1961a:44-46.

Conophis lineatus concolor: Neill and Allen, 1962:87; Wellman, 1963:271; Neill, 1965:124.

SUBSPECIES: *C. l. concolor* Cope and *C. l. dunnii* Smith.

HABITAT: Pine parkland and palm and pine savanna; terrestrial.

DISTRIBUTION: Cayo and Belize and possibly Corozal and Orange Walk.

Genus *Dendrophidion* Fitzinger

Dendrophidion clarki Dunn

Dendrophidion vinitor: Wilson, 1966:103; McCoy, 1970:136.

HABITAT: Palm and pine savanna and citrus orchard; arboreal.

DISTRIBUTION: Cayo and Stann Creek.

Genus *Dipsas* Laurenti

Dipsas brevifacies (Cope)

Sibynomorphus brevifaces: Schmidt, 1941:503.

Dipsas brevifacies: Neill and Allen, 1960:148-152; Neill, 1960:6; Neill, 1962:239.

HABITAT: Palm and pine savanna; arboreal.

DISTRIBUTION: Uncertain, probably Corozal, Orange Walk, and Belize.

Genus *Drymarchon* Fitzinger

Drymarchon corais (Boie)

Drymarchon corais melanurus: Schmidt, 1941:500; Neill and Allen, 1959a:53; Neill, 1965:101, 124; McCoy, 1970:136.

SUBSPECIES: *D. c. melanurus* (Duméril, Bibron, and Duméril).

HABITAT: Rainforest, jungle, pine parkland, palm and pine savanna, and mangroves; terrestrial.

DISTRIBUTION: Countrywide.

VERNACULAR NAME: Black tail.

Genus *Drymobius* Fitzinger
Drymobius margaritiferus (Schlegel)

Drymobius margaritiferus: Schmidt, 1941:499.

Drymobius margaritiferus margaritiferus: Neill and Allen, 1959a:52; Neill, 1962:240; Neill, 1965:102, 124; McCoy, 1970:136.

SUBSPECIES: *D. m. margaritiferus* (Schlegel).

HABITAT: Scrubby thickets, pastures and agricultural areas near water, forest clearings, and open swamplands; terrestrial.

DISTRIBUTION: Countrywide.

VERNACULAR NAMES: Green snake, Guinea fowl snake, and blue tail.

Genus *Elaphe* Fitzinger
Elaphe flavirufa (Cope)

Elaphe flavirufa flavirufa: Schmidt, 1941:501.

Elaphe flavirufa pardalina: Neill, 1965:102, 124.

SUBSPECIES: *E. f. pardalina* (Peters)

HABITAT: Jungle and pine parkland, probably; terrestrial.

DISTRIBUTION: Cayo.

Genus *Ficimia* Gray
Ficimia publia Cope

Ficimia publia: Neill, 1960:6; Greer, 1966:372; Hardy, 1975:135, 140-149.

Ficimia publia publia: Neill and Allen, 1961a:46.

Ficimia publia wolffsohni: Neill, 1965:103, 124.

HABITAT: Rainforest, jungle, and scrub forest; subterrestrial.

DISTRIBUTION: Corozal, Orange Walk, and Cayo.

VERNACULAR NAMES: Barber pole (Neill, 1965).

Genus *Imantodes* Duméril
Imantodes cenchoa (Linnaeus)

Imantodes cenchoa: Schmidt, 1941:505.

Imantodes cenchoa leucomelas: Neill, 1965:124; McCoy, 1970:136.

SUBSPECIES: *I. c. leucomelas*.

HABITAT: Rainforest, jungle, and citrus groves; arboreal.
DISTRIBUTION: Probably countrywide.

Genus *Lampropeltis* Fitzinger
Lampropeltis triangulum (Lacépède)

Lampropeltis triangulum polyzona: Schmidt, 1941:503;
McCoy, 1970:136.

Lampropeltis dolata polyzona: Neill, 1960:8; Neill and Allen,
1961a:46-49; Neill, 1965:124.

SUBSPECIES: *L. t. polyzona* Cope.

HABITAT: Rainforest, jungle, and citrus groves; terrestrial.

DISTRIBUTION: Cayo and Stann Creek.

VERNACULAR NAMES: Probably "coral" and "coralillo".

Genus *Leptodeira* Fitzinger

KEY TO THE SPECIES OF *LEPTODEIRA* IN BELIZE

Ventrals generally more than 190 *septentrionalis*
Ventrals generally fewer than 190; a distinct postorbital dark
stripe contacts the first dark body blotch *frenata*

Leptodeira frenata (Cope)

Leptodeira yucatanensis malleisi: Schmidt, 1941:505.

Leptodeira frenata malleisi: Duellman, 1958:62; Neill,
1965:124.

SUBSPECIES: *L. f. malleisi* Dunn and Stuart

HABITAT: Scrubby thickets, savanna, low swamp thickets,
pasture, and near human habitations; terrestrial and arboreal.

DISTRIBUTION: Corozal, Orange Walk, Belize, Stann Creek
and Toledo.

VERNACULAR NAME: Cohune ridge tommygoff.

Leptodeira septentrionalis (Kennicott)

Leptodeira annulata polysticta: Schmidt, 1941:480, 505.

Leptodeira septentrionalis polysticta: Duellman, 1958:72; Neill
and Allen, 1959a:54-55; Allen and Neill, 1959:232; Neill, 1960:8;
Neill, 1962:239; Neill, 1965:106-107, 124; McCoy, 1970:136.

SUBSPECIES: *L. s. polysticta* Günther.
HABITAT: Rainforest, jungle and parkland; arboreal.
DISTRIBUTION: Countrywide.
VERNACULAR NAME: Cohune ridge tommygoff.

Genus *Leptophis* Bell

KEY TO THE SPECIES OF *LEPTOPHIS* IN BELIZE

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Loreal absent | <i>ahaetulla</i> |
| Loreal present | <i>mexicanus</i> |

Leptophis ahaetulla (Linnaeus)

Leptophis occidentalis occidentalis: Schmidt, 1941:501.
Thalerophis richardi praestans: Oliver, 1948:248.
Leptophis ahaetulla praestans: Neill and Allen, 1959a:53-54;
Neill, 1965:107, 124; McCoy, 1970:136.
SUBSPECIES: *L. a. praestans* (Cope).
HABITAT: Forest clearings, pine parkland, and scrubby thickets; arboreal.
DISTRIBUTION: Orange Walk, Belize, Cayo, Stann Creek, and Toledo.

Leptophis mexicanus Duméril, Bibron, and Duméril

Leptophis mexicanus: Schmidt, 1941:501.
Thalerophis mexicanus mexicanus: Oliver, 1948:211.
Leptophis mexicanus mexicanus: Neill and Allen, 1962:87;
Neill, 1965:124; McCoy, 1970:136.
Leptophis modestus: Hoevers and Henderson, 1974:3.
Leptophis mexicanus subsp. nov., Henderson, in press.
SUBSPECIES: *L. m. mexicanus* (Duméril, Bibron, and Duméril)
and *L. mexicanus* subsp. nov. Henderson.
HABITAT: Forest clearings, parkland, swampy thickets, mangrove edge, cocotal, scrubby thickets, and often in residential gardens; arboreal.
DISTRIBUTION: Countrywide (*L. m. mexicanus*) and Big Cay Bokel.
VERNACULAR NAME: Green head (*L. m. mexicanus*).

Genus *Masticophis* Baird and Girard

Masticophis mentovarius (Duméril, Bibron and Duméril)

Masticophis mentovarius mentovarius: Neill and Allen, 1959a: 54; Fugler, 1960:11-12; Neill, 1965:124.

SUBSPECIES: *M. m. mentovarius* (Duméril, Bibron, and Duméril).

HABITAT: Savanna, pine parkland, and scrubby thicket; terrestrial.

DISTRIBUTION: Corozal, Orange Walk, Belize, and Cayo.

Genus *Mastigodryas* Amaral

Mastigodryas melanolomus (Cope)

Dryadophis alternatus-melanolomus: Stuart, 1941:90-91.

Dryadophis melanolomus melanolomus: Schmidt, 1941:499; Neill and Allen, 1959a:51-52; Neill, 1965:124.

Dryadophis melanolomus subspecies: Neill, 1965:100-101.

Dryadophis melanolomus: McCoy, 1970:136.

SUBSPECIES: *M. m. melanolomus* (Cope) x *M. m. laevis* (Fisher).

HABITAT: Pine parkland, scrubby thicket, and citrus, banana, coconut groves; terrestrial.

DISTRIBUTION: Orange Walk, Belize, Cayo, and Stann Creek.

Genus *Ninia* Baird and Girard

KEY TO THE SPECIES OF NINIA IN BELIZE

Dorsal color black or nearly so; belly boldly spotted

diademata

Dorsal color brown to red; belly immaculate

sebae

Ninia diademata Baird and Girard

SUBSPECIES: *N. d. nietoi* Burger and Werler.

HABITAT: Rainforest and jungle; subterrestrial and leaf litter.

DISTRIBUTION: Toledo.

REMARKS: This species has not previously been recorded from Belize. A specimen, KU 157600, was taken in broadleaf forest at a point 2.7 road mi NE of Golden Stream, Toledo District by Julian C. Lee (Univ. of Kansas) on 7 September 1974.

Ninia sebae (Duméril, Bibron and Duméril)

Ninia sebae sebae: Schmidt, 1941:497; Neill and Allen, 1959a: 47-48; Allen and Neill, 1959:231; Neill, 1965:107-108, 124; McCoy, 1970:136.

SUBSPECIES: *N. s. sebae* (Duméril, Bibron, and Duméril).

HABITAT: Rainforest, jungle, scrubby thicket, parkland, citrus plantations, and sugar cane fields; subterrestrial and leaf litter.

DISTRIBUTION: Countrywide.

VERNACULAR NAMES: Probably coral and coralillo.

Genus *Oxybelis* Wagler

KEY TO THE SPECIES OF OXYBELIS IN BELIZE

Dorsal ground color grey to light brown *aeneus*
Dorsal color emerald green *fulgidus*

Oxybelis aeneus (Wagler)

Oxybelis acuminatus: Schmidt, 1941:506; Neill and Allen, 1959a:56.

Oxybelis aeneus: McCoy, 1970:136; Henderson, 1974a:19-24.

Oxybelis aeneus subspecies: Neill and Allen, 1962:87-88.

Oxybelis aeneus aeneus: Neill, 1965:108, 124.

HABITAT: Pine parkland, scrubby thickets, berm and fruit groves and orchards, mangrove edge and mangrove forest; arboreal.

DISTRIBUTION: Belize, Cayo, Stann Creek, and Toledo.

VERNACULAR NAME: Tie-Tie snake.

Oxybelis fulgidus (Daudin)

Oxybelis fulgidus: Schmidt, 1941:506; Neill, 1960:8; Neill, 1965:108, 124.

HABITAT: Rainforest, jungle, cohune ridge, wet parkland, orchards and occasionally scrubby thickets; arboreal.

DISTRIBUTION: Countrywide.

Genus *Oxyrhopus* Wagler

Oxyrhopus petola (Linnaeus)

Oxyrhopus petolarius: Neill and Allen, 1959a:55-56.

Oxyrhopus petola aequifasciatus: Duellman, 1963:246; Neill,

1965:108, 124.

SUBSPECIES: *O. p. sebae* Duméril, Bibron, and Duméril.

HABITAT: Rainforest, jungle, and parkland; terrestrial.

DISTRIBUTION: Cayo.

VERNACULAR NAMES: Probably coral and coralillo.

Genus *Pliocercus* Cope

Pliocercus elapoides Cope

Pliocercus elapoides semicinctus Schmidt, 1941:480, 502.

Pliocercus elapoides laticollaris: Neill, 1965:124; McCoy, 1970:137.

SUBSPECIES: We have not designated Belizean *P. elapoides* to subspecies because of the obvious need for a revision of current subspecies. Specimens examined key to *P. e. diastemus* and *P. e. laticollaris* under the present arrangement.

HABITAT: Rainforest, jungle, parkland, and citrus groves; terrestrial.

DISTRIBUTION: Cayo and Stann Creek.

VERNACULAR NAMES: Probably coral and coralillo.

Genus *Pseustes* Fitzinger

Pseustes poecilonotus (Günther)

Pseustes poecilonotus poecilonotus: Schmidt, 1941:480, 499; Neill, 1965:124.

SUBSPECIES: *P. p. poecilonotus* (Günther).

HABITAT: Rainforest and jungle; terrestrial and arboreal.

DISTRIBUTION: Orange Walk and Cayo.

Genus *Scaphiodontophis* Taylor and Smith

Scaphiodontophis annulatus (Duméril, Bibron, and Duméril)

Sibynophis annulatus annulatus: Schmidt, 1941:497.

Scaphiodontophis annulatus annulatus: Taylor and Smith, 1943:312; Neill and Allen, 1959a:47; Neill, 1965:99, 124; McCoy, 1970:137.

Scaphiodontophis annulatus carpicinctus: Duellman, 1963:246-247.

SUBSPECIES: We have not designated subspecies because of the need of a generic revision.

HABITAT: Pine savanna and parkland, and citrus grove; subterrestrial and leaf litter.

DISTRIBUTION: Orange Walk, Cayo, Belize and Stann Creek.

Genus *Sibon* Fitzinger

KEY TO THE SPECIES OF *SIBON* IN BELIZE

No lower labials in contact behind mental *sanniola*
One pair of lower labials in contact behind mental . . *nebulata*

Sibon nebulata (Linnaeus)

Sibon nebulata nebulata: Neill, 1965:109, 124; McCoy, 1970:137.

SUBSPECIES: *S. n. nebulata* (Linnaeus).

HABITAT: Fruit orchards and groves, and jungle; terrestrial and arboreal.

DISTRIBUTION: Cayo and Stann Creek.

Sibon sanniola (Cope)

Sibynomorphus sanniolus: Schmidt, 1941:503.

Sibon sanniola: Neill and Allen, 1962:86; Neill, 1962:239; Neill, 1965:124.

HABITAT: Jungle and possibly rainforest; terrestrial.

DISTRIBUTION: Cayo.

Genus *Spilotes* Wagler

Spilotes pullatus (Linnaeus)

Spilotes pullatus mexicanus: Schmidt, 1941:500; Allen and Neill, 1959:230; Neill and Allen, 1959a:52-53; Neill and Allen, 1960:152-153; Neill, 1962:240; Neill, 1965:109, 124; McCoy, 1970:137.

SUBSPECIES: *S. p. mexicanus* (Laurenti).

HABITAT: Riparian jungle, mangroves, scrub forest; often found in thatched roofs; terrestrial and arboreal.

DISTRIBUTION: Countrywide.

VERNACULAR NAMES: Clapansaya and bokatora clapansaya.

Genus *Stenorrhina* Duméril

Stenorrhina freminvillei Duméril, Bibron and Duméril

Stenorrhina degenhardtii: Schmidt, 1941:506.

Stenorrhina freminvillei freminvillei: Neill and Allen, 1960:153-156.

Stenorrhina freminvillei: Neill, 1965:110, 124.

HABITAT: Parkland, scrubby thicket, and dry pine savanna; terrestrial.

DISTRIBUTION: Corozal, Orange Walk, and Cayo.

Genus *Tantilla* Baird and Girard

KEY TO THE SPECIES OF TANTILLA IN BELIZE

A light collar on back of head and nape *schistosa*
No light collar on back of head and nape *canula*

Tantilla canula Cope

Homalocranium breve Günther, 1895:150.

Tantilla brevis: Schmidt, 1941:480, 506; Peters and Orejas-Miranda, 1970:294.

Tantilla canula brevis: Neill and Allen, 1961b:90-94; Neill and Allen, 1962:89; Neill, 1965:124.

SUBSPECIES: *T. c. brevis* (Günther).

HABITAT: Jungle and cleared land; terrestrial.

DISTRIBUTION: Orange Walk.

Tantilla schistosa (Bocourt)

Tantilla schistosa: Neill and Allen, 1962:88-89.

Tantilla schistosa schistosa: Neill, 1965:124.

SUBSPECIES: *T. s. schistosa* (Bocourt).

HABITAT: Jungle and parkland; terrestrial.

DISTRIBUTION: Orange Walk and Cayo.

Genus *Thamnophis* Fitzinger

KEY TO THE SPECIES OF *THAMNOPHIS* IN BELIZE

Vertical black markings border some supralabial sutures;
dorsal pattern with spotted or checkered appearance.

Supralabials without black markings; dorsal pattern of three
pale longitudinal stripes *proximus*

Thamnophis marcianus (Baird and Girard)

Eutaenia praeocularis Bocourt, 1892:278.
Thamnophis praeocularis: Schmidt, 1941:480, 498; Neill and
Allen, 1959a:48-49; Allen and Neil, 1959:231; Neill and Allen,
1959b:223-227; Neill and Allen, 1961b:95-97; Neill, 1965:124.

Thamnophis marcianus praeocularis: D. A. Rossman in Peters
and Orejas-Miranda, 1970:303; Rossman, 1971:1-13.

SUBSPECIES: *T. m. praeocularis* (Bocourt)

HABITAT: Swampy palm and pine savanna; terrestrial and
semi-aquatic.

DISTRIBUTION: Belize.

Thamnophis proximus (Say)

Thamnophis sauritus rutiloris: Schmidt; 1941:498; Neill and
Allen, 1962:87; Neill, 1962:240-241.

Thamnophis sauritus chalceus: Neill and Allen, 1959a:48; Neill,
1960:6.

Thamnophis proximus rutiloris: Neill, 1965:110, 124.

SUBSPECIES: *T. p. rutiloris* (Cope).

HABITAT: Parkland, streamside thickets, and palm and pine
savanna; terrestrial and semi-aquatic.

DISTRIBUTION: Orange Walk, Belize, Stann Creek, and
Toledo.

Genus *Tretanorhinus* Duméril, Bibron, and Duméril

Tretanorhinus nigroluteus Cope

Tretanorhinus lateralis Bocourt, 1891:122.

Tretanorhinus nigroluteus: Schmidt, 1941:480, 499; McCoy,
1970:137; Wilson and Hahn, 1973:133-134.

Tretanorhinus nigroluteus lateralis: Dunn, 1939:216; Dunn and Stuart, 1951:59; Neill and Allen, 1959a:49-51; Allen and Neill, 1959:231; Neill, 1962:239-240; Neill, 1965:124.

SUBSPECIES: *T. n. lateralis* Bocourt.

HABITAT: Slow flowing rivers and lagoons; aquatic.

VERNACULAR NAME: River snake and water snake.

DISTRIBUTION: Orange Walk, Belize, Cayo, and Stann Creek.

Genus *Tropidodipsas* Günther

Tropidodipsas sartorii Cope

Tropidodipsas sartorii sartorii: Neill and Allen, 1961b:97; Neill, 1965:110, 124; McCoy, 1970:137.

SUBSPECIES: *T. s. sartorii* Cope.

HABITAT: Jungle, parkland, and scrub thickets; subterrestrial.

DISTRIBUTION: Corozal, Orange Walk, Cayo, and Stann Creek.

Genus *Xenodon* Boie

Xenodon rabdocephalus (Wied)

Xenodon rabdocephalus mexicanus: Schmidt, 1941:501; Neill, 1965:110, 124; McCoy, 1970:137.

Xenodon mexicanus: Neill, 1960:5.

SUBSPECIES: *X. r. mexicanus* Smith.

HABITAT: Rainforest and jungle; terrestrial.

DISTRIBUTION: Cayo and Stann Creek.

Family Elapidae

Genus *Micrurus* Wagler

KEY TO THE SPECIES OF *MICRURUS* IN BELIZE

1. Fewer than 17 black bands or blotches on body; red dorsals not or occasionally marked with black *hippocrepis*
Usually more than 16 black bands on body; all or many red dorsals marked with black 2
2. Usually more than 23 black body bands; usually more than 30% of subcaudals entire; red dorsals not uniformly tipped with black; supraanal keels absent in males. *diastema*
Usually fewer than 23 black body bands; none or very few

subcaudals entire; red dorsals uniformly tipped with black;
supraanal keels present in males *nigrocinctus*

Micrurus diastema (Duméril, Bibron and Duméril)

Micrurus diastema: Schmidt, 1933:36; Fraser, 1973:1-17.

Micrurus affinis stantoni: Schmidt, 1933:36.

Micrurus affinis alienus: Schmidt, 1936:212, Schmidt,
1941:507; Neill and Allen, 1959a:56-58; Allen and Neill,
1959:231-232; Neill, 1960:8, Neill, 1962:241.

Micrurus diastema sapperi: Roze, 1967:17.

HABITAT: Hilly pine parkland, scrubby thickets, jungle,
gardens; subterrestrial and terrestrial.

DISTRIBUTION: Countrywide except, possibly, the extreme
south.

VERNACULAR NAMES: Coral or coralillo (Neill and Allen,
1959a).

Micrurus hippocrepis (Peters)

Micrurus hippocrepis: Schmidt, 1933:36; Roze, 1967:29;
McCoy, 1970:137.

Micrurus affinis hippocrepis: Schmidt, 1936:214; Neill,
1965:111, 124.

HABITAT: Rainforest, jungle, moist valleys in pine parkland,
and citrus groves; subterrestrial and leaf litter.

DISTRIBUTION: Cayo and Stann Creek.

VERNACULAR NAMES: Coral or coralillo (Neill and Allen,
1959a).

Micrurus nigrocinctus (Girard)

Micrurus nigrocinctus divaricatus: Neill, 1965:111-112, 124;
Roze, 1967:39.

SUBSPECIES: *M. n. divaricatus* (Hallowell).

HABITAT: Probably rainforest, jungle, pine parkland, and palm
and pine savanna; subterrestrial and leaf litter.

DISTRIBUTION: Belize and Stann Creek.

VERNACULAR NAMES: Coral and coralillo (Neill and Allen,
1959a).

Family Viperidae

KEY TO THE GENERA OF VIPERIDAE IN BELIZE

1. Tail terminating in a rattle *Crotalus*
Tail not terminating in a rattle 2
2. Upper surface of head covered with nine regularly arranged plates *Agkistrodon*
Upper surface of head with fewer than nine large plates; posterior head surface covered with small scales . . *Bothrops*

Genus *Agkistrodon* Beauvois

Agkistrodon bilineatus (Günther)

Agkistrodon bilineatus: Schmidt, 1941:508; Gloyd, 1972:331; Hoevers and Henderson, 1974:3-4.

Agkistrodon bilineatus bilineatus: Allen and Neill, 1959:229; Neill, 1965:125.

SUBSPECIES: *A. b. russeolus* Gloyd.

HABITAT: The only two specimens known to have definitely come from Belize were taken in wet sugar cane fields; terrestrial and semi-aquatic.

DISTRIBUTION: Corozal.

Genus *Bothrops* Wagler

KEY TO THE SPECIES OF *BOTHROPS* IN BELIZE

1. Two or three small, pointed, accessory, supraocular scales with free edges overhanging eye to give "horned" appearance *schlegeli*
No such small supraocular scales 2
2. Tip of snout with a free "flap" which is produced dorsally to give appearance of an upturned snout *nasutus*
Snout without free "flap", not or only slightly upturned . . 3
3. Supraocular long and narrow or undifferentiated; upper labials 9-11; most or all subcaudals single *nummifer*
Supraocular large and broad, well differentiated, upper labials usually 7; subcaudals divided *asper*

Bothrops asper (Garman)

Trimeresurus atrox: Schmidt, 1941:508.

Bothrops atrox asper: Neill and Allen, 1959a:58-59; Neill, 1960:8.

Bothrops atrox: Neill and Allen, 1962:89-90; Neill, 1962:242-243; Neill, 1965:112-113, 125; McCoy, 1970:137.

HABITAT: Rainforest, jungle, and along streams in pine parkland; terrestrial.

DISTRIBUTION: Countrywide.

VERNACULAR NAMES: Yellow jaw tommygoff, yellow jaw, or tommygoff.

Bothrops nasutus Bocourt

Trimeresurus yucatanicus: Schmidt, 1941:509.

Bothrops nasutus: Neill, 1965:113-114, 125.

HABITAT: Rainforest and jungle; terrestrial.

DISTRIBUTION: Cayo.

Bothrops nummifer (Ruppell)

Bothrops nummifer: Neill and Allen, 1960:156, 158-159; Neill, 1960:8; Neill, 1962:243.

Bothrops nummifer nummifer: Schmidt, 1941:509; Neill, 1965:114, 125.

SUBSPECIES: *B. n. mexicanus* (Duméril, Bibron, and Duméril).

HABITAT: Rainforest, jungle, and hilly pine savanna; terrestrial.

DISTRIBUTION: Cayo and Stann Creek.

VERNACULAR NAME: Jumping tommygoff.

Bothrops schlegeli (Berthold)

Trimeresurus schlegelii: Schmidt, 1941:509.

Bothrops schlegeli: Neill, 1965:125.

Bothrops schlegeli schlegeli: Neill, 1960:8.

HABITAT: Rainforest and jungle; arboreal.

DISTRIBUTION: Western Orange Walk and Cayo.

Genus *Crotalus* Linnaeus
Crotalus durissus Linnaeus

Crotalus durissus tzabcan: Neill and Allen, 1959a:59-60; Neill and Allen, 1959c:237-238; Fugler, 1960:12; Neill, 1960:11; Neill, 1962:242; Neill, 1965:125.

Crotalus durissus subspecies: Neill and Allen, 1960:159-160.

SUBSPECIES: *C. d. tzabcan* Klauber.

HABITAT: Hilly pine parkland, palm and pine savanna, and sandy coastal pine ridge; terrestrial.

DISTRIBUTION: All districts, but in Toledo only on the coast.

VERNACULAR NAME: Rattlesnake; cascabela (Neill and Allen, 1959a).

Order CROCODYLIA
Family Crocodylidae

Genus *Crocodylus* Laurenti

KEY TO THE SPECIES OF *CROCODYLUS* IN BELIZE

Subcaudal rings interrupted by irregular groups of small scales *moreleti*
Subcaudals in uniform uninterrupted rings *acutus*

Crocodylus acutus Cuvier

Crocodylus acutus: Schmidt, 1924:85; Schmidt, 1941:489; Neill and Allen, 1961a:50-51; Neill, 1965:125.

HABITAT: Probably restricted to river mouths and coastal mangrove swamps; aquatic.

DISTRIBUTION: Unknown.

VERNACULAR NAME: Alligator; "agarei" in Carib (Neill and Allen, 1959a).

Crocodylus moreleti Duméril and Bibron

Crocodylus moreletii: Schmidt, 1924:79-80; Schmidt, 1941:489.

Crocodylus moreleti: Neill and Allen, 1959a:30-33; Allen and Neill, 1959:231; Neill, 1965:114-115, 125.

HABITAT: Inland lagoons and slow-flowing rivers; aquatic.

DISTRIBUTION: Orange Walk, Belize, and Cayo.
VERNACULAR NAMES: Alligator; "agarei" in Carib (Neill and Allen, 1959a).

Order TESTUDINES
Family Dermatemyidae

Genus *Dermatemys* Gray
Dermatemys mawii Gray

Dermatemys mawii: Günther, 1902:10; Schmidt, 1941:487.
Dermatemys abnormis Cope, 1868:120, Dunn and Stuart, 1951:59.

Dermatemys mawii: Allen and Neill, 1959:230; Neill and Allen, 1959a:28; Neill, 1965:125.

HABITAT: Wide, deep, slow-moving rivers and lagoons; aquatic.

DISTRIBUTION: Corozal, Orange Walk, Cayo, and Belize.

VERNACULAR NAME: Hickety.

Family Kinosternidae

KEY TO THE GENERA OF KINOSTERNIDAE IN BELIZE

1. Scutes of plastron and carapace separated by a ligament that crosses bridge *Claudius*
Scutes of plastron and carapace separated by a series of scutes on bridge 2
2. Length of plastron at least eighty percent that of carapace *Kinosternon*
Length of plastron not more than seventy-five percent that of carapace *Staurotypus*

Genus *Claudius* Cope
Claudius angustatus Cope

Claudius angustatus: Schmidt, 1941:488; Neill, 1965:125.
HABITAT: Muddy drainages and ponds in jungle and open pasture; aquatic.
DISTRIBUTION: Corozal, Orange Walk, and Belize.

Genus *Kinosternon* Spix

KEY TO THE SPECIES OF *KINOSTERNON* IN BELIZE

1. Interabdominal length less than 27% of plastron length and less than 80% of forelobe length; head brown, each side with two broad, cream or yellow stripes, sometimes broken into a series of blotches or mottles *leucostomum*
Interabdominal length more than 27% of plastron length and more than 80% of forelobe length; head not colored as above 2
2. Maximum shell height less than 41% of carapace length; generally unicarinate *acutum*
Maximum shell height more than 37% of carapace length; basically tricarinate *scorpioides*

Kinosternon acutum Gray

Kinosternon acutum: Schmidt, 1941:488; Neill, 1965:117, 125; Iverson, in press.

HABITAT: Probably rainforest and jungle; aquatic.

DISTRIBUTION: Orange Walk, Belize, Cayo and Stann Creek.

Kinosternon leucostomum Duméril and Bibron

Kinosternon leucostomum: Schmidt, 1941:488; Neill and Allen, 1959a:29; Allen and Neill, 1959:229; Neill, 1965:117, 125; Iverson, in press.

Kinosternon mopanum: Neill, 1965:117-121, 125; Iverson, in press.

HABITAT: Fast-running creeks in jungle, swamps, cattle pools in pasture, large ponds and cenotes.

DISTRIBUTION: Countrywide.

VERNACULAR NAME: Swanka (Neill and Allen, 1959a).

Kinosternon scorpioides (Linnaeus)

Kinosternon cruentatum cruentatum: Schmidt, 1941:488; Allen and Neill, 1959:229; Neill, 1965:117, 125; Iverson, in press.

Kinosternon scorpioides: Iverson, in press.

HABITAT: Palm and pine savanna and secondary forest; aquatic.

DISTRIBUTION: Corozal, Orange Walk, Belize, Cayo, and Stann Creek.

Genus *Staurotypus* Wagler
Staurotypus triporcatus (Wiegmann)

Staurotypus triporcatus: Schmidt, 1941:488; Neill, 1965:121, 125.

Staurotypus salvini: Neill and Allen, 1959a:28.

HABITAT: Wide, slow-flowing rivers, and lagoons; aquatic.

DISTRIBUTION: Corozal, Orange Walk, Belize, Cayo.

VERNACULAR NAME: Loggerhead.

Family Emydidae

KEY TO THE GENERA OF EMYDIDAE IN BELIZE

Chin and throat immaculate or spotted; toes weakly separated, largely enclosed in flesh with but a narrow web; red markings on top and side of head *Rhinoclemys*
Chin and throat with longitudinal light and dark stripes; toes, especially those of hind feet, well separated and connected by a broad web; yellow markings on side of head. *Chrysemys*

Genus *Chrysemys* Gray
Chrysemys scripta (Schoepff)

Pseudemys ornata: Schmidt, 1941:488.

Pseudemys scripta ornata: Neill and Allen, 1959a:29; Allen and Neill, 1959:229; Neill, 1965:115, 125.

SUBSPECIES: *C. s. venusta* (Gray).

HABITAT: Everywhere in permanent freshwater; aquatic.

DISTRIBUTION: Countrywide.

VERNACULAR NAMES: Bokatora; "wayamu" in Carib (Neill and Allen, 1959a).

Genus *Rhinoclemys* Gray
Rhinoclemys areolata (Duméril and Bibron)

Geoemyda areolata: Schmidt, 1941:489; Neill and Allen, 1959a:30; Neill, 1965:115, 125.

HABITAT: Scrubby thicket, moist savanna, and valleys in pine parkland; semi-aquatic.

DISTRIBUTION: Countrywide.

VERNACULAR NAMES: Brown belly or black belly; "ara-gagao" in Carib according to Neill and Allen (1959a).

Family Cheloniidae

KEY TO THE GENERA OF CHELONIIDAE IN BELIZE

1. A single pair of prefrontal scutes *Chelonia*
Two pairs of prefrontal scutes 2
2. Four pairs of lateral (costal) shields. *Eretmochelys*
Five or more pairs of lateral (costal) shields *Caretta*

Genus *Caretta* Rafinesque

Caretta caretta (Linnaeus)

Caretta caretta caretta: Neill and Allen, 1959c:238; Neill, 1965:125.

SUBSPECIES: *C. c. caretta* (Linnaeus).

HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION: Coastal Caribbean waters and beaches.

Genus *Chelonia* Brongniart

Chelonia mydas (Linnaeus)

Chelonia mydas mydas: Neill and Allen, 1959c:238; Neill, 1965:125.

SUBSPECIES: *C. m. mydas* (Linnaeus).

HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION: Coastal Caribbean waters and beaches.

Genus *Eretmochelys* Fitzinger

Eretmochelys imbricata (Linnaeus)

Eretmochelys imbricata imbricata: Neill and Allen, 1959c:238; Neill, 1965:125.

SUBSPECIES: *E. i. imbricata* (Linnaeus).

HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION: Coastal Caribbean waters and beaches.

Family Dermochelyidae

Genus *Dermochelys* Blainville

Dermochelys coriacea (Linnaeus)

Dermochelys coriacea coriacea: Neill and Allen, 1959c:238;
Neill, 1965:125.

SUBSPECIES: *D. c. coriacea* (Linnaeus).

HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION: Coastal Caribbean waters.

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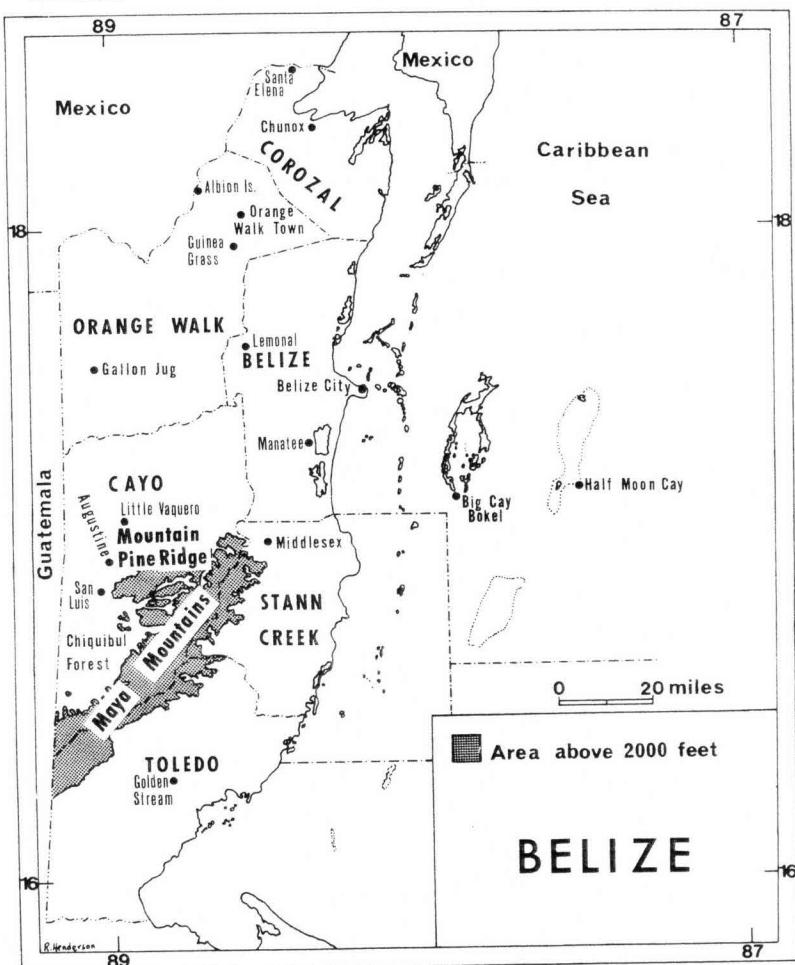


Figure 1. Map of Belize showing localities mentioned in the text.

ERRATUM

"A Checklist and Key to the amphibians and reptiles of Belize, Central America".

The first five lines on page 18 should be on page 17 under the Rana berlandieri species account.