

A NEW SALAMANDER FROM SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

By EMMETT REID DUNN

In my "Salamanders of the Family Plethodontidae" (1926) I was inclined to regard the record of *Ensatina croceater* from "a district about 75 miles southeast of San Diego"¹ which Cope reported "from near San Diego"² as really referring to *eschsoltzii*, because the latter occurs in the Coast Range and in the San Bernardinos, thus intervening between the other records of *croceater* and the above-mentioned one. The most southern record of *croceater* aside from the Lower California one was Fort Tejon, Kern County, which is the type locality, but which may well be vague and erroneous, at least as to exactness. All other records were from the Sierras. Therefore in the absence of actual specimens the divided range of *croceater* led me to question the identification of the Lower California specimen.

Recently L. M. Klauber³ has figured one specimen and given records of five salamanders from San Diego County and two from Riverside County which he considers *croceater* and which thus tend to confirm the record of Cope and Lockington.

He also suggests that my allocation of their specimen to the San Pedro Martir Mountains is incorrect, as they lie 140 miles southeast of San Diego, and says Laguna Hanson, 77 miles southeast, is a more probable station.

Klauber's figure impressed me as being different from any *croceater* I had seen (12 from the Sierra Nevada). Two specimens in the United States National Museum (Nos. 75229-30) from near Banning, Riverside County, confirm this impression, and make it apparent that we have to do with a third Californian species of *Ensatina*, found in the San Jacinto, Laguna, and Cuyamaca Mountains, in Riverside and San Diego Counties, and also probably in Lower California. This makes *eschsoltzii* in California restricted to the northern Sierras, the Coast Range, and the San Bernardinos, and *croceater* to the southern Sierras.

¹ Lockington, 1880, Amer. Nat., p. 295.

² Cope, 1889, Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus. 34, p. 151.

³ 1927, Bull. Zool. Soc. San Diego, no. 3, p. 2, fig. 1.

Mr. Klauber has kindly presented the National Museum with a beautiful specimen from Descanso which may well serve as the type of

ENSATINA KLAUBERI, new species

Type.—Cat. No. 75337, U.S.N.M. collected by Joe Carter, April 1, 1928, female adult.

Type locality.—Descanso, San Diego County, Calif.

Range.—San Jacinto, Laguna, and Cuyamaca Mountains, in Riverside and San Diego Counties, and northern Lower California.

Diagnosis.—An *Ensatina* with few large light blotches or crossbands on body and tail.

Description of type.—Costal grooves 12–13; toes overlapping when appressed; head width about 5 in distance from snout to vent; head length 2.7 in length of body; head oval; eye longer than its distance from nostril; eye shorter than its distance from tip of snout; upper jaw straight as seen from side; angle of jaw back of hind angle of eye; both eyelids under a fold of skin behind; a groove from eye to gular fold; a groove from this down behind angle of jaw; fingers 3, 2, 4, 1 in order of length, a tubercle at base of all except first; two tubercles on palm; toes 4, 3, 2, 5, 1 in order of length, a tubercle at the base of the three middle ones; tail constricted at base, tapering, swollen dorsally, longer than body; vomerine teeth 26 in series, beginning far outside outer edge of naris, curving in and back to meet its fellow, separated from parasphenoids by twice width of naris; latter in two patches beginning at middle of eye socket; black above, light brownish gray below; elbow and upper arm, knee and thigh, band from angle of jaw over occiput, including upper eyelid, two and one-half irregular bands on body, and four on the tail, light yellow, tip of tail likewise light yellow.

Total length 127 mm., head 19.5, body 53.5, tail 54.

Variation.—A male, Cat. No. 75229, U.S.N.M., received from Dr. Dwight W. Pierce and collected by Arthur Gilman at Mill Canyon, near Banning, has a slightly swollen snout; head length $3\frac{1}{2}$ in length of body; tail as long as head and body; two irregular bars on body, and irregular light spotting on tail; 21 vomerine teeth; total length 130 mm., head 15, body 50, tail 65. A female, same data (Cat. No. 75230), has the occipital band broken into two spots; a single crossbar on body, and two large spots on left side and one on right; a crossbar in the anal region; four complete and two incomplete bars on tail; total length 95 mm., head 14, body 43, tail 38. Klauber writes that the specimen he figured from near Descanso was 140 mm. long. He describes the color as "black, fading on the sides to dusky purplish gray. The irregular series of dorsal blotches (one on the head engaging the eyelids, four on the body, four on the tail)

are orange rufous; under surfaces transparent light vinaceous lilac. The legs are of the same color as the dorsal blotches except the extremities, which are similar to the under surfaces."

Remarks.—The localities for this animal are:

Riverside County: San Jacinto Mountains, 5,500 feet. Mill Canyon, near Banning. (Cat. No. 75229-30, U.S.N.M.)

San Diego County: Cuyamaca Mountains; Rose Mine, Laguna Mountains; 3 miles northeast of Descanso; Descanso (Cat. No. 75337, U. S. N. M.).

Lower California: "75 miles southeast of San Diego [Laguna Hanson ?].

This is the most distinct species in the genus. Absence of dorsal markings distinguishes *E. eschscholtzii*; *E. croceater* and *platensis* have very small and irregular spotting.

