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DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF BASILISCUS
FROM THE REGION OF THE SIERRA NEVADA
DE SANTA MARTA, COLOMBIA.

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The specimens of *Basiliscus* obtained in the Santa Marta Region by the Bryant Walker Expedition of the University of Michigan differ so markedly from the known forms in the genus as to indicate that they belong to a different species. The Colombian form is apparently nearest to *Basiliscus americanus*, but it is not described under any of the names usually placed in the synonymy of that species. The collection contains thirty-seven specimens.*

***Basiliscus barbouri* † sp. nov.**

Diagnosis.—Size large; general form, including the dorsal and caudal crests, but excepting the head crest, as in *B. americanus*. In adult males the occipital swellings rounded above, meeting in a median groove (thus no parietal ridge), and obtusely pointed posteriorly, quite covering the parietal ridge of bone and its cartilaginous extension and not merging gradually into the crest. The head crest single, not erect but pendent upon the side of the neck, ribbon-like, narrowing rapidly from its base, which extends on the median line of the head from a point above or behind the ear opening to the anterior region of the neck, to form a long narrow lobe. Base of head crest covered with small, pointed, smooth, tubercular, or feebly keeled scales, the upper ones largest; scales of the

* Since this description was prepared the writer has examined 12 immature specimens in the collection of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, collected by W. W. Brown, Jr., at Palomina (5000 feet) and La Concepcion (3000 feet) in the Santa Marta Mountains. While most of the specimens are too young for specific identification, the species is indicated by a partly grown male (Cat. No. 6563, M. C. Z.) which has the form of head crest described for *B. barbouri*.

† Named for Mr. Thomas Barbour, Herpetologist in the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

lobe long and very narrow, six or seven times as long as wide. Ventral scales smooth.

General color above olive brown, usually finely spotted with pale yellowish on the body, five black cross bars on each side between the limbs, and two on the neck, these interrupted by a yellowish band extending from the neck or from above the ear to the groin; limbs dark brown barred and spotted with yellow or pale olive. In the adults there is a short yellow band from the posterior corner of the eye to above the ear, and another, poorly defined below, from the lower eyelid to the shoulder, these light bands usually brighter than the body stripes and with more or less distinct black margins on the temporal region. An indistinct yellowish band sometimes present on the lower part of the sides. Coloration of the young similar to that of the adults except that the markings are more distinct, and the lower body stripe is continuous with the lower neck stripe across the shoulder, anteriorly extending upon the side of the muzzle and involving the lower eyelid. All markings more obscure in adults but as a rule more distinct in the females.

Habitat.—Found on the lowlands at the base of the Santa Marta Mountains, Colombia, from Santa Marta to Fundacion, and in the mountains to 2200 feet (Minca).

Type-specimen.—Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan, Cat. No. 45,411; Gaira River at Minca, San Lorenzo, Santa Marta Mountains, Colombia (altitude 2200 feet); July 14, 1913; Alexander G. Ruthven, collector.

Description of type-specimen.—Adult male. Head crest long and narrow, nearly twice as long as its greatest width, rising on the median line from a point above the ears to the anterior region of the neck; upper margin not erect, when supported it is on the plane of the orbital angles and the highest point is just above the posterior margin of the maxillary protuberances; posterior margin rising directly upward to a point a little behind the highest point of the upper margin and then backward and downward parallel with the dorsal to form the narrow lobe. Entire crest pendent upon the side of the neck from near the base, the latter partially erect to highest point. Occipital swellings rounded above and meeting in a shallow groove, thus covering the parietal extension of the skull so that there is no ridge preceding the crest. Base of crest covered with slightly enlarged pointed scales with low keels that become smooth toward the lobe; scales of lobe in about 8 rows of 16 or 17, long and very narrow, approximately 6 or 7 times as long as broad. Seven upper labials and 7 and 8 lower labials to below the center of the eye; two sublabials in contact with the labials on one side, on the other the second and third partly separated from the labials by a small plate. Ventral scales smooth. A high dorsal crest, as high as the body, and a high caudal crest, both covered with large smooth scales.

Color of body and neck above dull brownish olive, indistinctly and finely spotted with dull yellow and with a few irregular black spots (the remnants of cross bars); the dorsal crest paler and with a few small black

spots on the base (also remnants of cross bars). A dull yellow stripe from above the ear to the anal region, well defined on the neck, more obscure but distinguishable on the body; a broad white band from the maxillary protuberances to the fore limb. Tail dark brown basally, this color encroaching broadly and irregularly on the paler crest, distally with alternating bands of pale olive and dark brown. Head brownish olive, this color extending upon the base of the crest; lobe of crest pale olive with broad reticulations of dark brown and a dark brown tip. A pale band from the superciliary region to above the ear, just indicated. Lower eyelid whitish. Lower surface of body and limbs dull white more or less suffused with gray; chin, throat and breast white with blackish bands.

Measurements.—Total length, 697 mm.; head length, 52.3 mm.; head width, 33 mm.; length of head crest,* 58 mm.; greatest height of dorsal crest,† 45 mm.; greatest height of tail crest, 32 mm.; head and body length, 195 mm.; length of fore limb, 78 mm.; length of hind limb, 181 mm.; length of tail, 502 mm.

Notes on paratypes.—In partly grown males the head crest has a form similar to that of the adults, *i. e.*, it is not expanded and erect in the vertical plane, but more or less ribbon-like and dependent on the neck. The form of the crest differs somewhat, however, in the different specimens, in that the posterior margin of the base may be continued backward for a greater or less extent, thus reducing the relative length of the free tip. In a specimen with a body length of 117 mm. the crest is indicated by a broad lobe folded on the occiput. In a specimen with a body length of 138 mm. the lobe is differentiated from the base by longer and wider scales and has a free tip, the whole lying on the dorsal surface of the neck, and this form is maintained in larger specimens, the crest either being carried slightly above the neck or lying flat on one side or the top, and when it reaches some length it is often twisted. A low parietal ridge is present in specimens with a body length of 138 mm. and 144 mm., but in older individuals it is only represented by a short, low prominence, behind the pineal eye.

In a skeleton the neural spines have the following development: Dorsal spines 16, increasing in length from the spine on the last cervical vertebra, the twelfth the longest, the last four rapidly decreasing in size; the second to the sixth expanded (the third, fourth and fifth the most), the others slender, all strongly bent backward from the fourth; the spines of the last two lumbar vertebrae and the two pelvic vertebrae short and about equal in length, the first bent caudad. Caudal spines elongated from the first, 24 in all, the tenth the longest, the last two minute.

Remarks.—As previously stated, the writer can find no original descriptions that apply to this form. In his diagnosis of the species of *Basiliscus*, Cope‡ gives as the characters of *B. goodridgii* (Gray), “one tassel-like head crest with small scales; more than one interorbital row; no longitudinal bands.” This description of the head crest (but not the color)

* Measured from anterior angle on the head.

† Measured along the spines.

‡ Jour. Acad. Nat. Sci., Phila., 1875, p. 125.

would seem to indicate that he had examined specimens of the Colombian form, but if so he was certainly in error in applying Gray's name, for the original description and figure of *Lophosaura goodridgii* were evidently based on a specimen with an expanded and erect crest.

Local distribution.—The species is common along the immediate shores of lowland streams at the base of the Santa Marta Mountains, from Santa Marta to Fundacion, and in the mountains to an elevation of 2200 feet (Minca, San Lorenzo). It was not found above Minca, and while it doubtless follows some of the larger streams of the Sierra Nevada to a higher altitude, it quite certainly does not occur on San Lorenzo above 3500 feet.