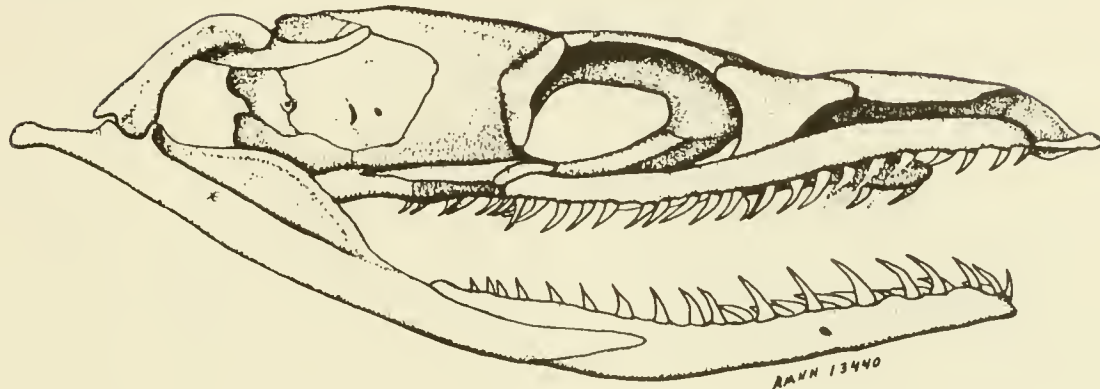


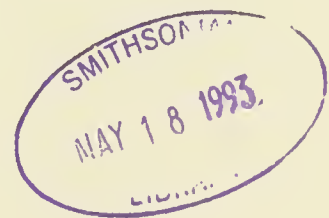
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BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE GENUS OXYBELIS WAGLER
(SERPENTES: COLUBRIDAE)



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INTRODUCTION

Compiling a bibliography which spans over two and a half centuries and includes scholarly works from a score of countries is both time-consuming and rewarding. I began accumulating references on neotropical vine snakes of the genus Oxybelis in 1965 when I was a student at Louisiana State University. My initial reference was Bogert and Oliver's 1945: "A Preliminary Analysis of the Herpetofauna of Sonora."

Five species make up the genus Oxybelis Wagler. These are: O. aeneus, O. argenteus, O. boulengeri, O. brevirostris, and O. fulgidus. The species of the genus are distributed from the extreme southwestern United States (Arizona), south through tropical Mexico and Central America, to Brazil, Bolivia, and Peru in South America. The southern limits of the range are poorly known.

This bibliography lists known references to the genus, to recognized species of the genus, and to all junior synonyms. Publications mentioning species erroneously placed within Oxybelis and now assigned elsewhere are likewise cited. A few titles which mention no specific Oxybelis taxa but which are considered particularly relevant to their taxonomy are also included. In this latter category are several papers which have been used in the literature to establish priority dates for determining sequences of synonyms of Oxybelis taxa.

Although some subjective interpretations are necessary, Seba (1735) and Schuechzer (1735a and/or 1735b) may be the earliest references to these snakes of which I am aware. By the mid-1800's, a considerable literature existed. Brief commentaries on distribution, locality records, or anatomy made up the bulk of this. Papers on snakes of the genus Oxybelis have increased in recent decades and considerably more detailed studies have occasionally appeared.

Although more recent titles have been added, intensive literature searching ceased in November of 1989. Omissions from this list may be due to my having overlooked citations or not having had the opportunity to verify sources in time for inclusion herein. The bibliography is reasonably comprehensive and it should prove a useful tool for anyone working with these snakes.

Over the years, many persons have assisted me in searching the literature, in translating non-English papers, and in interpreting older literature. Others have helped by calling my attention to papers in less prominent journals. To list their names at this time would undoubtedly result in unintended omissions of oversight. Nevertheless, I extend my thanks to all who have been of assistance. I am especially grateful to two persons who were particularly helpful during the final stages of

preparing this manuscript. Marinus S. Hoogmoed provided invaluable comments on plates in the Schuechzer papers (1735a, 1735b, 1738), which had proven particularly difficult to interpret. Kenneth L. Williams supplied a number of references I had not previously encountered and also spent considerable time and effort copying and/or verifying reference sources for me.

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