

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF SNAKE (TANTILLA  
EISENI) FROM CALIFORNIA.

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AMONG the many valuable and interesting reptiles collected by Dr. Gustav Eisen at Fresno, California, and presented to the National Museum many years ago, there are a number of small snakes belonging to the opisthoglyph genus *Tantilla*, which have hitherto been referred to *Tantilla nigriceps*. A recent examination of these specimens has convinced me that they do not belong to Kennicott's species, being in fact undescribed. This species I propose to name in honor of the gentleman who collected them.

TANTILLA EISENI, new species.

*Diagnosis.*—Supralabials seven; posterior nasal in contact with preocular; temporals elongate, 1+1; first pair of sublabials not in contact behind mental; ventrals, 176-181; subcaudals, 58-65; head blackish, bounded behind by a white collar about three scale lengths from parietals.

*Habitat.*—San Joaquin Valley, California.

*Type.*—No. 11766a, U. S. N. M.; Fresno, California; Dr. G. Eisen, collector.

*Description of the type.*—Head very flat above, rather broad across the anterior temporals; eyes small; rostral wider than high, the portion visible from above longer than the internasal suture; internasals short; prefrontals nearly twice as large as internasals, their lower border wedged in between posterior nasal and preocular, but not in contact with supralabials; frontal rather long, six-sided, angular in front and behind, the lateral borders nearly parallel; supraoculars rather small, half as wide as frontal; parietals long and narrow, nearly as long as their distance from tip of snout; nasals long, the posterior in contact with preocular, which is but slightly shorter; no loreal; one preocular; two postoculars; temporals long, 1+1; supralabials 7, last one largest, third and fourth entering eye; sublabials 7, four in contact with first

pair of chin shields; first pair of sublabials not in contact behind mental; 15 rows of smooth scales; 4 rows of scales between posterior chin shields and ventrals; ventrals 176; anal divided; subcaudals, 62+1. Color (in alcohol) uniform pale flesh color, slightly darker grayish brown above; top of head, lores, temples, and nape for a distance of 3 scale-lengths back of the parietals, dark grayish-brown; behind this a narrow white band, one scale-length wide, bordered behind by a few dark-brown dots. Total length, 365 mm.; tail, 82 mm.

*Remarks.*—The present species differs from all our North American *Tantillas* with seven supralabials, in being proportionally much longer and slenderer, and the number of ventrals and subcaudals is greatly in excess of that of our other species.

The characters of this interesting novelty are fully corroborated by six additional specimens in the Museum as shown by the following list:

*List of specimens of Tantilla eiseni.*

U. S. Nat. Mus. No.	Collector.	Locality.	Ventrals.	Anal.	Subcaudals.
11766a	Eisen . . . .	Fresno, California . . . . .	176	1	62+1
11766b	...do . . . . .	...do . . . . .	167	1	65+1
11766c	...do . . . . .	...do . . . . .	179	1	62+1
11766d	...do . . . . .	...do . . . . .	176	1	Def.
11766e	...do . . . . .	...do . . . . .	172	1	61+1
11766f	...do . . . . .	...do . . . . .	178	1	59+1
11766g	...do . . . . .	...do . . . . .	181	1	58+1