

THE COLUBRID SNAKE *ENULIUS OLIGOSTICHUS* IN WESTERN MÉXICO.—

Because the description of *Enulius oligostichus* (Smith *et al.*, 1967) is based on a single specimen in relatively poor condition, we present data from three other specimens and provide additional information concerning the distribution of and variation in this apparently rare snake.

Two of the new specimens are from the same general area as the holotype. One (UAZ 20368) was collected 4.1 miles E of San Blas, Nayarit; the other (LACM 36232) was taken on the San Blas Road, México Highway 54 between San Blas and México Highway 15. A third specimen (LACM 55022) was found on México Highway 15, 2 miles S Elota, Sinaloa. This is more than 400 km north of previous localities and is the first record from Sinaloa.

Smith *et al.* (1967) diagnosed *E. oligostichus* as differing from other species of *Enulius* by the following combination of characteristics: 15 dorsal scale rows; single apical pits; five supralabials; low numbers

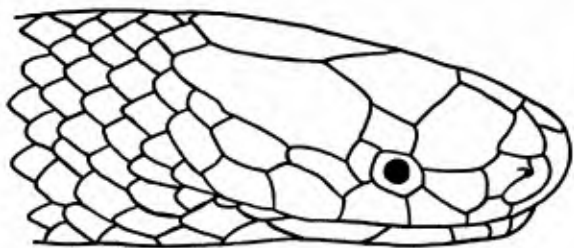


Fig. 1. Details of head scalation of adult female *Enulius oligostichus* (UAZ 20368) from near San Blas, Nayarit, México. Line = 1 mm.

of ventrals and subcaudals; and uniform tan dorsally, without a light collar. Our three specimens agree with the holotype in these characteristics and confirm its distinctiveness. In addition, all four specimens of *E. oligostichus* have one secondary temporal (rather than two as in other members of the genus); thus this characteristic can be added to the list of diagnostic features.

The four specimens now available (UIMNH 62740, ♂, holotype; LACM 36232, ♂; LACM 55022, ♂; UAZ 20368, ♀; in that order) provide the following information on intraspecific variation: ventrals 157, 152, 150, 163; subcaudals 82, — (LACM 36232 has an incomplete tail), 88, 83; ventrals plus subcaudals 239, —, 238, 246; snout-vent length (mm) 185, 201, 225, 202; tail length 90, —, 117, 93; tail length/total length in percent 32.7, —, 34.2, 31.5. Smith *et al.* (1967) reported 163 ventrals in the holotype. However, repeated counts by the method proposed by Dowling (1951) indicate that there are 157.

Details of head scalation are shown in Fig. 1. All specimens have 1 loreal contacting the eye, 1 postocular, 1 supraocular, 1 + 1 + 2 temporals, 5 supralabials with the second and third contacting the eye, and 5 or 6 infralabials. All specimens have 15 scale rows at one head-length behind the head, at mid-body, and at one head-length in front of the anus. Only the holotype shows dorsal scale row reduction on the trunk, and this occurs 5 rows anterior to the anus.

Apparently *E. oligostichus* diverged from *Enulius flavitorques* subsequent to its isolation north of the mountainous areas formed by the western extent of the Transverse Volcanic Range in southern Nayarit and western Jalisco. It appears that *E. oligostichus* is restricted to tropical deciduous forests on the coastal plain of southern Sinaloa and Nayarit.

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