

## Three New Country Records for Honduran Snakes

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Field work at two localities in La Reserva de la Biósfera Río Plátano, deptos. Colón and Olancho, Honduras, in 1998 and 1999 resulted in the collection of three species of snakes not previously known to occur in Honduras. The species are discussed below, including their color in life, following the colors and codes of Smithe (1975-1981). Museum abbreviations follow those of Leviton et al. (1985).

*Ninia maculata* (Peters). A single adult female (USNM 535992; SVL of 186 mm and a total length of 245 mm) was collected at 540 m elevation under a small log at Quebrada Machín, Depto. Colón, on 3 August 1999. The specimen has narrow crossbands on the body (closest to Fig. 2B in Savage and Lahanas 1991), a broad nuchal collar (most similar to Fig. 3B in Savage and Lahanas 1991, although the collar is not divided down the midline), and a strongly checkered venter (pattern most similar to Fig. 4H in Savage and Lahanas 1991). Scalation characters of USNM 535992 are typical of *N. maculata*, as defined by Savage and Lahanas (1991). The overall color pattern and segmental counts (127 ventrals, 52 subcaudals, 179 ventrals plus subcaudals) agree with the Atlantic Lowlands population of *N. maculata*, as defined by Savage and Lahanas (1991). The Honduran specimen represents a range extension of about 160 airline km NNW of the Big Falls, Zelaya (= Depto. Atlántico Norte), Nicaragua, locality in Savage and Lahanas (1991). Color in life of USNM 535992: dorsum of body Burnt Umber (22), with Blackish Neutral Gray (82) dorsal crossbands; dorsum of head Dark Grayish Brown (20); supralabials with pale cream and very dark brown markings; venter pale cream with Dusky Brown (19) checkering; iris gray with darker flecking.

*Sibon longifrenis* (Stejneger). Six specimens (three males [USNM 535994, 535996, 535998] and three females [USNM 535993, 535995, 535997]) were collected between 540 and 700 m elevation on vegetation 2-3 m above streams at Quebrada de Las Marias, Depto. Olancho (five specimens), and Quebrada Machín, Depto. Colón (one specimen). All specimens were active at night on 1-2 August 1998 and 1 August 1999. Comparison of these specimens to the data provided by Savage and McDiarmid (1992) revealed that they agree with their definition of *S. longifrenis* in most de-

tails. However, the Honduran material differs in ventral pattern from the illustration and description of *S. longifrenis* provided by Savage and McDiarmid (1992) by lacking significant stippling on these surfaces. In fact, the ventral pattern of the Honduran specimens most closely resembles that of *S. argus*, as illustrated (their Fig. 2B) and described by Savage and McDiarmid (1992). Thus, the Honduran material was compared directly to the holotype of *Mesopeltis longifrenis* Stejneger (USNM 38750) from Panama and five specimens from Costa Rica identified as *S. longifrenis* by Savage and McDiarmid (CRE 6701; KU 25703; UF 31787, 77732; UMMZ 117502), as well as the holotype of *Leptognathus argus* Cope (USNM 30656) from Costa Rica and three specimens from Panama identified as *S. argus* by Savage and McDiarmid (KU 75752–53, 112473). *Sibon longifrenis* and *S. argus* differ significantly from each other in head shape, eye size, number of ventrals, and number of subcaudals. The Honduran specimens agree with the specimens we examined of *S. longifrenis* in these significant characters. However, the differences in ventral pattern between the Honduran material and that of *S. longifrenis* from Costa Rica and Panama remain obvious in direct comparison, except that one Costa Rican *S. longifrenis* (UF 77732) has less ventral stippling than the remaining *S. longifrenis*, and approximates the pattern seen in the Honduran material. Thus, we consider the Honduran specimens to be conspecific with *S. longifrenis* from Costa Rica and Panama. The Honduran specimens represent a range extension of about 530 airline km NNW of the Heredia, Costa Rica, localities reported by Savage and McDiarmid (1992).

Savage and McDiarmid (1992) had only nine specimens of *Sibon longifrenis* available for their analysis. Thus, we provide the following pertinent data for the six Honduran specimens: enlarged penultimate supralabial bordering orbit; loreal bordering orbit on 9 of 12 sides, one large preocular present on 3 of 12 sides, 1 small preocular present below loreal on 6 of 9 remaining sides: 1–3 (usually 2) postoculars; 7–7 supralabials (fourth, fifth, and sixth bordering orbit), sixth supralabial enlarged in all; infralabials 6–8, none in contact behind mental; 1+2 (2+3 on one side) temporals; 0–1 postmentals (usually 1 very small postmental present); dorsal scales in 15–15–15 smooth rows, vertebral row not enlarged; ventrals 166–169 (167.3, N = 3) in males, 159–165 (161.7, N = 3) in females; subcaudals 106 in both males with complete tails, 91–98 (95.7, N = 3) in females; total segmental counts 272–275 (273.5, N = 2) in males, 250–263 (257.3, N = 3) in females. The color pattern of the Honduran material agrees well with that provided for *S. longifrenis* by Savage and McDiarmid (1992), except that the ventral surfaces are cream (in preservative) with longitudinal dark brown mottling, mottling not confined to lateral edges of ventrals and not forming a zig-zag pattern. There are 27–41 (34.5) single dorsal ocelli and 0–12 (5.8) paired ocelli. The largest male (USNM 535998) has a SVL of 389 mm and a total length of 577 mm; the largest female (USNM 535997) has a SVL of 368 mm and a total length of 541 mm. Color in life of USNM 535993: dorsum of body Bunting Green (150), with black outlined Ferruginous (41) ocelli crossbands, some of which are broken into dorsal and lateral portions, these crossbands separated laterally by ivory blotches; dorsum of head Bunting Green (150), with black outlined Ferruginous (41) blotches; venter Spectrum Yellow (55) with black longitudinal mottling, mottling streaked with Ferruginous (41); iris pale olive green, with black and rust-red speckling.

*Urotheca guentheri* (Dunn). Two adult males (USNM 535999–6000: SVL 265 mm and total length 465 mm and SVL 215 mm and tail incomplete, respectively) were collected at 540 m elevation less than 1 m apart inside the same rotten log at Quebrada Machín, Depto. Colón, on 4 August 1999. Both specimens agree well with the description of this species by Myers (1974, as *Rhadinaea*). Both specimens have 140 ventrals and the specimen with the complete tail has 109 subcaudals. USNM 535999 is nearly 30 mm longer than the longest male available to Myers (1974). The Honduran specimens represent a range extension of about 170 airline km NNW of the Eden Mine, Zelaya (= Depto. Atlántico Norte), Nicaragua, locality in Myers (1974). Color in life of USNM 535999: dorsum of body Warm Sepia (221A) between dorsolateral pale stripes, with median row and portions of paravertebral rows with an olive tint; paired dorsolateral stripes Cinnamon (39); lateral field (between dorsolateral and lateral pale stripes) Walnut Brown (221B), heavily flecked with Sepia (219); paired lateral stripes Drab-Gray (119D); lower half of scale row 1 and lateral edge of ventrals Sepia (119); dorsum of head Warm Sepia (221A); pale spot posterior to eye Cream Color (54); spots just posterior to head Cinnamon (39); lower portion of supralabials pale cream, Burnt Orange (116) along lip line on supralabials 4–6; venter Burnt Orange (116); iris rust-red. Savage and Crother (1989) placed the members of Myers' (1974) *Rhadinaea lateristriga* group (to which *R. guentheri* belongs) in the genus *Urotheca* Bibron. Myers and Cadle (1994) concurred with this placement.

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