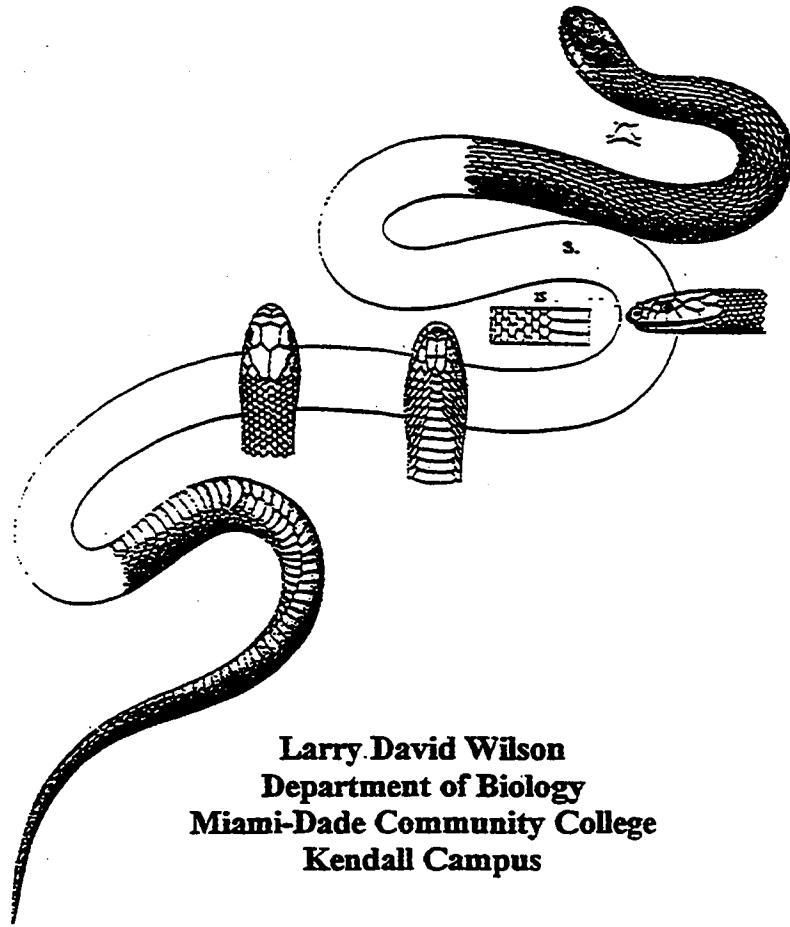


**CHECKLIST AND KEY TO THE SPECIES  
OF THE GENUS *TANTILLA* (SERPENTES: COLUBRIDAE),  
WITH SOME COMMENTARY ON DISTRIBUTION**



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**SMITHSONIAN  
HERPETOLOGICAL INFORMATION  
SERVICE  
NO. 122**

**1999**

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10 May 2004

## Introduction

The last systematic summary of the colubrid genus *Tantilla* was provided by Wilson (1982a). In that account, forty-six species were listed. Since that paper, many significant changes have occurred in the systematics of this speciose genus, including a generic reallocation, an elevation of a subspecies to species status, and several species synonymizations, species resurrections, and species descriptions. Given the extensive nature of these changes, I think it is necessary to update information on the content of the genus and to provide a new key for the identification of the members of the genus, as currently recognized. It is the purpose of this paper to accomplish these ends.

One generic reallocation has taken place since Wilson's (1982a) paper. One of the taxa he listed, *Tantilla canula* Cope, "1875" (1876), most extensively treated by Wilson (1982b), was transferred to the genus *Tantillita* by Smith et al. (1993). The content of the latter genus, thus, rose to three species (including *brevissima* and *lintoni*).

*Tantilla cucullata* Minton, 1956, was elevated from subspecific status within *Tantilla rubra* Cope "1875" (1876) to full species status by Dixon et al. (In press); these authors also synonymized *Tantilla diabolus* Fouquette and Potter, 1961, with *T. cucullata*.

Five species synonymizations also have occurred, as indicated below:

*Tantilla annulata* Boettger, 1892 = *Tantilla supracincta* (Peters), 1863 (Wilson, 1987)

*Tantilla cuesta* Wilson, 1982b = *Tantilla jani* (Günther), 1895 (Campbell, 1998)

*Tantilla excubitor* Wilson, 1982b = *Tantillita brevissima* Taylor, "1936" (1937) (Wilson, 1988a)

*Tantilla miniata* Cope, 1863 (as *Tantilla miniator*) = *Tantilla rubra* Cope, "1875" (1876) (Dixon et al., In press)

*Tantilla morgani* Hartweg, 1944 = *Tantilla rubra* Cope, "1875" (1876) (Dixon et al., In press)

Three species-level taxa (all members of the *taeniata* group) not listed by Wilson (1982a) have been resurrected subsequently, as noted below:

*Tantilla trilineata* (Peters), 1880, from indeterminate status (Wilson and Meyer, 1971) to that of valid species (Savitsky and Smith, 1971; as noted by Campbell, 1998)

*Tantilla triseriata* Smith and Smith, 1951, from synonymy of *Tantilla taeniata* (Bocourt), 1883 (Smith et al., 1998)

*Tantilla tritaeniata* Smith and Williams, 1966, from synonymy of *Tantilla taeniata* (Bocourt), 1883 (Wilson and McCranie, In press)

Finally, seven new species have been described in the genus since Wilson's (1982a) treatment, as listed below:

*Tantilla impensa* Campbell, 1998  
*Tantilla johnsoni* Wilson et al., 1999  
*Tantilla miyatai* Wilson and Knight, in Wilson, 1987a  
*Tantilla slavensi* Pérez-Higareda et al., 1985  
*Tantilla tayrae* Wilson, 1983  
*Tantilla tecta* Campbell and Smith, 1997  
*Tantilla vulcani* Campbell, 1998

In summary, of the forty-six species listed by Wilson (1982a), forty-two are currently regarded as valid members of the genus *Tantilla*, three taxa were resurrected subsequently, one subspecific taxon was elevated to specific level, and seven new taxa were described later, constituting the fifty-three species in the genus.

Although our understanding of the evolutionary history to *Tantilla* is still in its infancy, some efforts have been made to place species in species groups. Those assignments follow:

*Tantilla calamarina* group (Wilson and Meyer, 1981; Wilson et al., 1999)

<i>T. calamarina</i>	<i>T. deppei</i>
<i>T. cascadae</i>	<i>T. veriformis</i>
<i>T. coronadoi</i>	

*Tantilla coronata* group (Telford, 1966)

<i>T. coronata</i>	<i>T. relicta</i>
<i>T. oolitica</i>	

*Tantilla melanocephala* group (Wilson and Mena, 1980; Wilson, 1987a)

<i>T. andinista</i>	<i>T. lempira</i>
<i>T. capistrata</i>	<i>T. melanocephala</i>
<i>T. equatoriana</i>	<i>T. miyatai</i>
<i>T. insulamontana</i>	

*Tantilla planiceps* group (Cole and Hardy, 1981)

<i>T. atriceps</i>	<i>T. planiceps</i>
<i>T. hobartsmithi</i>	<i>T. yaquia</i>

*Tantilla taeniata* group (Wilson and Meyer, 1981; Wilson, 1983; Pérez-Higareda et al., 1985; Campbell and Smith, 1997; Campbell, 1998; Smithe et al., 1998; Wilson and McCranie, In press; Wilson et al., 1999)

<i>T. brevicauda</i>	<i>T. slavensi</i>
<i>T. briggsi</i>	<i>T. striata</i>
<i>T. cuniculator</i>	<i>T. taeniata</i>
<i>T. flavilineata</i>	<i>T. tayrae</i>
<i>T. impensa</i>	<i>T. tecta</i>
<i>T. jani</i>	<i>T. trilineata</i>
<i>T. johnsoni</i>	<i>T. triseriata</i>
<i>T. oaxacae</i>	<i>T. tritaeniata</i>
<i>T. reticulata</i>	<i>T. vulcani</i>

These group assignments account for 37 of the 53 species in this genus.

### Acknowledgments

I would like to express my gratitude to Steve W. Gotte, National Museum of Natural History, Arnold G. Kluge, University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, and Rainer Günther, Zoologisches Museum, Berlin, who provided me with valuable information on the type material of various species of *Tantilla* housed in the USNM, MZUM, and ZMB collections, respectively, and to R. Kathryn Vaughan, who did the same for the holotype of *T. rubra*. Hobart M. Smith kindly reviewed the manuscript and offered several suggestions for revision.

## Checklist

As noted above, fifty-three species appear in this checklist, summarizing changes in *Tantilla* systematics to the date 28 February 1999. The format of the species accounts includes the following sections: species synonymy (including current name and its synonyms); holotype (if known) or lectotype; type locality (including any valid restriction); distribution (elevational and geographic); systematic references (containing the most recent and/or comprehensive treatments); remarks (containing systematic information of pertinence, if necessary).

### *Tantilla albiceps* Barbour

*Tantilla albiceps* Barbour, 1925: 156.

Holotype.— Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University (MCZ) 20600, adult (?) male, collected by Thomas Barbour in February, 1925.

Type-locality.— Barro Colorado Island, Gatun Lake, Canal Zone, Panama.

Distribution.— Known only from the type locality.

Systematic references. — Wilson (1982b, 1985b).

Remarks.— This species continues to be known from a single specimen. Its relationships within the genus are unclear.

### *Tantilla alticola* (Boulenger)

*Homalocranium alticola* Boulenger, 1903: 353.

*Homalocranium coralliventre* Boulenger, 1913: 1035.

*Tantilla costaricensis* Taylor, 1954: 766

Syntypes.— British Museum of Natural History (BMNH) 1946.1.8.63-65 (formerly BMNH 98.10.27.7-9), first two males, third apparently a female, collected by A. E. Pratt (date of collection unknown; accessioned 27 October 1898).

Type-locality.— Santa Rita, north of Medellín, 9000 ft. (2743 m), Depto. Antioquia, Colombia.

Distribution.— Low to intermediate elevations (91-2743 m) of Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and northwestern Colombia.

Systematic references. — Wilson (1982b, 1986a, 1987a).

### *Tantilla andinista* Wilson and Mena

*Tantilla andinista* Wilson and Mena, 1980: 21.

Holotype.— University of Kansas Museum of Natural History (KU) 135209, adult female, collected 9 June 1970 by Thomas H. Fritts.

Type-locality.— 5 km E Alausí, elevation 2600-2750 m, Prov. Chimborazo, Ecuador.

Distribution.— Known only from the type locality.

Systematic references. — Wilson and Mena (1980); Wilson (1985c, 1987a).

Remarks.— This taxon is still known from but a single specimen.

*Tantilla atriceps* (Günther)

*Homalocranium atriceps* Günther, 1895: 146.

Syntypes.— British Museum of Natural History (BMNH) 1946.1.8.81-82 (original numbers 89.7.3.36-37, respectively), both males, obtained in 1889 from W. Taylor.

Type-locality.— "Nuevo León, Mexico."

Distribution.— Low, moderate, and intermediate elevations in southeastern Chihuahua, southern Coahuila, northwestern Nuevo León, northern San Luis Potosí, northern and eastern Durango, and northeastern Zacatecas, Mexico, with apparently disjunct populations in Tamaulipas, Mexico, and southern Texas

Systematic references. — Cole and Hardy (1981, 1983a).

Remarks.— Cole and Hardy (1981) demonstrated that *T. atriceps* and *T. hobartsmithi* are sibling species, differing from one another in the structure of the hemipenis. Other features used to distinguish between these two species (number of postoculars, contact or lack thereof between mental and anterior chinshields) do not consistently do so (Robert G. Webb, in litt.). In addition, some specimens of *T. nigriceps* cannot be distinguished convincingly from these two sibling species in areas of sympatry (Cole and Hardy, 1981). Thus, details of the systematic and distributional relationships among these three species remain to be elucidated.

*Tantilla bairdi* Stuart

*Tantilla bairdi* Stuart, 1941: 1.

Holotype.— University of Michigan Museum of Zoology (UMMZ) 89223, adult female, collected by L. C. Stuart, 17 May 1940.

Type-locality.— Two km NE Finca Chichén (10 straight line km S Cobán) on Chamelco trail, ca. 1550 m, Depto. Alta Verapaz, Guatemala.

Distribution.— Moderate and intermediate elevations (1524-1550 m) of the Caribbean versant of central Guatemala.

Systematic references. — (Wilson, 1982b, 1985a, 1985e).

Remarks.— A second specimen of this taxon was reported by Wilson (1985a).

*Tantilla bocourti* (Günther)

*Homalocranium bocourti* Günther, 1895: 149 (see Remarks).

*Tantilla bocourti bocourti*: Smith and Lafe, 1945: 348.

Lectotype.— British Museum of Natural History (BMNH) 1946.1.8.70 [formerly BMNH 94.10.2.1], obtained on exchange from Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris (formerly MNHNP 3694), adult male, collected by Dr. Alfredo Dugés, date of collection unknown (see Remarks).

Type-locality.— "Guanajuato, Mexico," restricted to city of Guanajuato by Smith and Taylor (1950).

Distribution.— Low to intermediate elevations of the Pacific versant from northeastern Sinaloa southeastern to Guanajuato and Puebla, Mexico (including the Tres Mariás Islands), and southward to central Guerrero, Mexico; also on the Atlantic versant in Hidalgo, Puebla, and central Veracruz, Mexico.

Systematic references. — McDiarmid and Folke (1991); McDiarmid (1992).

Remarks.— This species was regarded as monotypic by McDiarmid (1992), who synonymized *Tantilla deviatrrix* Barbour, 1916, given subspecific status within *T. bocourti* by Smith and Laufe (1945), with *T. wilcoxi* Stejneger, 1902.

McDiarmid and Folke (1991) noted that two specimens were originally included under the number MNHNP 3694, and that one of them was sent to another museum (probably the British Museum of Natural History) in 1894. They concluded that such did occur and that the sent specimen is now BMNH 1946.1.8.70. They noted that lectotype designation was accomplished by Boulenger (1896a), and that as a consequence, the specimen MNHNP 3694 currently in the Paris Museum is the paralectotype of *T. bocourti*.

*Tantilla brevicauda* Mertens

*Tantilla brevicauda* Mertens, 1952: 137.

Holotype.— Forschungsinstitut und Natur-Museum Senckenberg (SMF) 43243 43243, female, collected 12 November 1951 by A. Zilch.

Type-locality.— El Grito, Finca Los Angeles, Cumbre de Jayaque, 1510 m, Depto. La Libertad, El Salvador, collected 12 November 1951 by A. Zilch.

Distribution.— Moderate and intermediate elevations in southcentral and northeastern El Salvador and south-central Guatemala.

Systematic references. — Wilson (1982b, 1988b).

Remarks.— The possible relationships of this diminutive species (within the *taeniata* group) are discussed by Wilson (1982b) and Wilson et al. (1999).

*Tantilla briggsi* Savitzky and Smith

*Tantilla briggsi* Savitzky and Smith, 1971: 167.

Holotype.— University of Colorado Museum (UCM) 40000, adult male, collected between July and September, 1968 by Thomas MacDougall.

Type-locality.— 12 de Julio, Oaxaca, Mexico.

Distribution.— Known only from the type locality.

Systematic references. — Savitzky and Smith (1971); Wilson (1985f).

Remarks.— This species remains known from only the holotype.

*Tantilla calamarina* Cope

*Tantilla calamarina* Cope, 1866: 320.

*Tantilla bimaculata* Cope, "1875" (1876): 143.

*Tantilla martindelcampoi* Taylor, "1936" (1937): 347.

Holotype.— National Museum of Natural History (USNM) 6600, adult female, collected by J. J. Major, date of collection unknown.

Type-locality.— Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico (locality questioned by Peters, 1954, and Zweifel, 1959; the latter suggested the state of Colima as the most likely source of the holotype).



Distribution.— Low, moderate, and intermediate elevations of the Pacific versant from Sinaloa to Guerrero and Morelos, including the Tres Mariás Islands. An unconfirmed record exists for Tezuitlán, Puebla, Mexico. The type locality is, most likely, in error.

Systematic references. — Wilson and Meyer (1981); Wilson (1988c).

*Tantilla capistrata* Cope

*Tantilla capistrata* Cope, 1876: 181.

Holotype.— Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia (ANSP) 11581, juvenile female, collected by James Orton, date of collection unknown.

Type-locality.— Valley of Jequetepeque, Depto. La Libertad, Peru.

Distribution.— Low to intermediate elevations of northwestern coastal Peru and the valleys of the upper Río Marañón, Río Chincipe, and Río Chamaya, as well as the provinces of El Oro and Loja in extreme southern Ecuador.

Systematic references. — Wilson and Mena (1980); Wilson (1987a, 1990a); Pérez-Santos and Moreno (1991).

*Tantilla cascadae* Wilson and Meyer

*Tantilla cascadae* Wilson and Meyer, 1981: 13.

Holotype.— American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) 107389, female, collected in June, 1939 by D. F. Brand.

Type-locality.— Tzaráracua Falls (= Cascada la Tzaráracua), S of Uruapán (10.5 km south, according to Duellman, 1961), Michoacán, Mexico, collected by D. F. Brand in June, 1939.

Distribution.— Known only from the type locality.

Systematic references. — Wilson and Meyer (1981); Wilson (1988d).

Remarks.— This species remains known from but a single specimen.

*Tantilla coronadoi* Hartweg

*Tantilla coronadoi* Hartweg, 1944: 4.

Holotype.— University of Michigan Museum of Zoology (UMMZ) 85697, female, collected by Wilmot W. Brown, date of collection unknown.

Type-locality.— vicinity of Chilpancingo, Guerrero, Mexico.

Distribution.— Moderate and intermediate elevations of the Pacific versant in central Guerrero, Mexico.

Systematic references. — Wilson and Meyer (1981); Wilson (1990b).

*Tantilla coronata* Baird and Girard

*Tantilla coronata* Baird and Girard, 1853: 131.

*Homalocranium wagneri* Jan, 1862: 51.

*Tantilla coronata mitrifer* Schwartz, 1953: 153.

Holotype.— National Museum of Natural History (USNM) 1875 (according to Cochran, 1961), adult female collected by D. C. Lloyd, date of collection unknown.

Type-locality.—Kemper Co., Mississippi, USA.

Distribution.—Low elevations in Florida west of the Appalachian River westward to the Mississippi River and northward to southern Indiana and Virginia in the United States.

Systematic references. — Telford (1966, 1982).

*Tantilla cucullata* Minton

*Tantilla cucullata* Minton, 1956: 449.

*Tantilla diabola* Fouquette and Potter, 1961: 144

Holotype.— Field Museum of Natural History (FMNH) 74384, adult male, collected 1 July 1955 by Sherman A. Minton, Jr.

Type-locality.— 6 mi SSE Alpine, Brewster Co., Texas, USA.

Distribution.— Big Bend and Trans-Pecos regions of southwestern Texas in the United States.

Systematic references. — Dixon et al. (In Press).

Remarks.— This taxon has had a checkered taxonomic history, but recently has been elevated from subspecific status within *T. rubra* to full specific status by Dixon et al. (In press). It is presumably the sister taxon of *T. rubra* (Dixon et al., In press).

*Tantilla cuniculator* Smith

*Tantilla moesta cuniculator* Smith, 1939: 32.

Holotype.— Field Museum of Natural History (FMNH) 19408, juvenile female, collected in 1934 by Eunice Blackburn.

Type-locality.— Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico.

Distribution.— Low elevations of the Yucatan Peninsula in the Mexican states of Yucatán and Quintana Roo and in the northern portion of Belize.

Systematic references. — Wilson (1982b, 1985g).

*Tantilla deppei* (Bocourt)

*Homalocranion deppei* Bocourt, 1883: 584.

Lectotype.— Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris (MNHNP) 54, adult male, collected by M. Ghiesbreght, date of collection unknown.

Type-locality.— "Mexico," restricted to vicinity of Huitzilac, Morelos, Mexico, by Davis and Smith (1953).

Distribution.— Intermediate elevations of the Pacific versant in northern Morelos and northwestern Oaxaca, Mexico.

Systematic references. — Wilson and Meyer (1981); Wilson (1988e).

*Tantilla equatoriana* Wilson and Mena

*Tantilla equatoriana* Wilson and Mena, 1980: 23.

Holotype.— National Museum of Natural History (USNM) 198530, adult (?) male, collected in May 1951 by M. Olalla.

Type-locality.— San Lorenzo, Prov. Esmeraldas, Ecuador.

Distribution.— Known only from the type locality.

Systematic references. — Wilson and Mena (1980); Wilson (1987a, 1988f).

*Tantilla flavilineata* Smith and Burger

*Tantilla flavilineata* Smith and Burger, 1950: 117.

Holotype.— University of Illinois Museum of Natural History (UIMNH) 6321, adult female, adult female, collected 23 August 1949 by Jack and W. Leslie Burger.

Type-locality.— 8 mi SE Nochixtlán, Oaxaca, Mexico.

Distribution.— Intermediate elevations of the central portion of the Mexican state of Oaxaca.

Systematic references. — Wilson and Meyer (1971); Wilson (1985h).

*Tantilla gracilis* Baird and Girard

*Tantilla gracilis* Baird and Girard, 1853: 132.

Holotype.— Stated to be University of Michigan Museum of Zoology (UMMZ) 3781 by Kluge (1984), but the previous number given this specimen is USNM 4500, a number for a lot of 11 specimens, two of which are still in the USNM collection, which specimens were not likely to have been available to Baird and Girard (1853), inasmuch as this lot was collected by Captain Pope on the Pacific Railroad Survey at about the same time as Baird and Girard published their work (dated 5 January 1853). It is likely that the real holotype is either USNM 2040 or 2041, both of which are indicated in the USNM catalogue to be from Indianola, Texas, and to have been collected by J. D. Graham. Neither of these specimens, however, currently can be located (Steve W. Gotte, in litt.).

Type-locality.— Indianola, Calhoun Co., Texas, USA (but see above).

Distribution.— Low to moderate elevations (0-610 m) from eastern Kansas, southern Missouri, and extreme southwestern Illinois south to northwestern Louisiana, eastern and southern Texas, USA, and northeastern Coahuila, Mexico. Isolated populations occur in eastern Texas and the Texas Panhandle in the United States.

Systematic references. — Hardy and Cole (1968).

*Tantilla hobartsmithi* Taylor

*Tantilla hobartsmithi* Taylor, "1936" (1937): 339 (part).

*Tantilla utahensis* Blanchard, 1938: 372.

Holotype.— University of Illinois Museum of Natural History (UIMNH) 25066, adult male collected 3 July 1934 by Edward H. Taylor.

Type-locality.— Near La Posa, 10 mi NW Guaymas, Sonora, Mexico.

Distribution.— Low, moderate, and intermediate elevations in a series of apparently disjunct populations from southern California through southern Nevada and Utah, western Colorado, Arizona, southern New Mexico, western Texas, USA, and western Sonora, eastern Chihuahua, and northern Coahuila, Mexico.

Systematic references. — Cole and Hardy (1981, 1983b).

Remarks.— See the *T. atriceps* account.

*Tantilla impensa* Campbell

*Tantilla impensa* Campbell, 1998: 6.

Holotype.— UTA R-38196, adult female collected by E. N. Smith on 2 July 1994.

Type-locality.— Aldea San Miguelito (15°22'N, 88°43'W), elevation 460 m, Sierra de Caral, Municipio de Morales, Depto. Izabal, Guatemala.

Distribution.— Near sea level to intermediate elevations of the Caribbean versant from eastern Chiapas, Mexico, through the mountains of central Guatemala to western Honduras.

Systematic references. — Campbell (1998); Wilson and McCranie (In Press).

Remarks.— Extensions of range of this species beyond those reported by Campbell (1998) into eastern Chiapas, Mexico, and western Honduras were recorded by Wilson and McCranie (In Press).

*Tantilla insulamontana* Wilson and Mena

*Tantilla insulamontana* Wilson and Mena, 1980: 24.

Holotype.— University of Kansas Museum of Natural History (KU) 152207, adult (?) male, collected 12 June 1971 by Arthur C. Echternacht.

Type-locality.— Río Minas, 15.1 km W Santa Isabel, elevation ca. 1250 m, Prov. Azuay, Ecuador.

Distribution.— Moderate to intermediate elevations of the Hoya de Jubones (Pacific drainage) in southern Ecuador.

Systematic references. — Wilson and Mena (1980); Wilson (1987a, 1990c).

*Tantilla jani* (Günther)

*Homalocranium jani* Günther, 1895: 148.

*Tantilla cuesta* Wilson, 1982b: 29.

Lectotype.— British Museum of Natural History (BMNH) 1946.1.8.68, adult female, collected on behalf of F. D. Godman (perhaps by G. C. Champion), date of collection unknown.

Type-locality.— "Guatemala."

Distribution.— Known from certainty from the type locality of *Tantilla cuesta* (Finca San Julia, 1.5 km E San Rafael Pie de la Cuesta, elevation 1050 m, Depto. San Marcos, Guatemala), which name was synonymized with *T. jani* by Campbell (1998; see immediately below).

Systematic references. — Campbell (1998).

Remarks.— Campbell (1998) demonstrated that the holotype of *Tantilla cuesta* Wilson, 1982b, is conspecific with the lectotype of *Tantilla jani* (Günther), 1895. Furthermore, he showed that specimens allocated to *T. jani* by Wilson and Meyer (1971) and Wilson (1982b, 1985i) and *T. fusca* by Slevin (1939) actually represent another taxon, described as *Tantilla vulcani* by him. *Tantilla jani* belongs to the *taeniata* group (Wilson, 1982b; Campbell, 1998).

*Tantilla johnsoni* Wilson, Vaughan, and Dixon

*Tantilla johnsoni* Wilson et al., 1999: 1.

Holotype.— Carnegie Museum of Natural History (CM) 51741, an adult (?) male collected 11 August 1968 by E. C. Welling M.

Type-locality.— Musté, Municipio Motozintla, approximate elevation 450 m, Chiapas, Mexico.

Distribution.— Known only from the type locality.

Systematic references. — Wilson et al. (1999).

*Tantilla lempira* Wilson and Mena

*Tantilla lempira* Wilson and Mena, 1980: 25.

Holotype.— Louisiana State University Museum of Zoology (LSUMZ) 26093, adult female, collected 3 June 1968 by Ernest A. Liner.

Type-locality.— 41 km NW Tegucigalpa, Depto. Francisco Morazán, Honduras.

Distribution.— Moderate to intermediate elevations of the Pacific versant of south-central Honduras.

Systematic references. — Wilson and Mena (1980); Wilson (1982b, 1990d).

Remarks.— An additional specimen of this species from a locality remote from the vicinity of the type locality was reported by Wilson (1984).

*Tantilla melanocephala* (Linnaeus)

*Coluber melanocephalus* Linnaeus, 1758: 218.

*Elapomorphus mexicanus* Günther, 1862: 57.

*Tantilla armillata* Cope, "1875" (1876): 143.

*Homalocranium melanocephalum* var. *fuscum* Bocourt, 1883: 589.

*Tantilla pallida* Cope, 1887: 56.

*Pogonaspis ruficeps* Cope, 1894: 204.

*Homalocranium melanocephalum* var. *fraseri* Günther, 1895: 148.

*Homalocranium melanocephalum* var. *pernambucense* Günther, 1895: 148.

*Homalocranium longifrontale* Boulenger, 1896b: 17.

*Homalocranium hoffmanni* Werner, 1909: 239.

*Elapomorphus nuchalis* Barbour, 1914: 199.

Holotype.— None designated.

Type-locality.— "America."

Distribution.— Low to high elevations along both versants from Guatemala throughout Central America into South America as far south as southern Peru, Bolivia, northern Argentina, and Uruguay; also on the islands of Trinidad and Tobago.

Systematic references. — Wilson and Mena (1980); Wilson (1982b, 1987a, 1992a).

*Tantilla miyatai* Wilson and Knight, *in* Wilson

*Tantilla miyatai* Wilson and Knight, *in* Wilson, 1987a: 12.

Holotype.— Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University (MCZ) 166541, adult male, collected in September, 1983, by Giovanni Onore.

Type-locality.— Pucuro Quito (0°10'N, 79°16'W), Prov. Pichincha, Ecuador, collected by Giovanni Onore in September 1983.

Distribution.— Known only from the type locality.

Systematic references. — Wilson (1987a, 1990e).

Remarks.— This taxon is known only from the holotype.

*Tantilla moesta* (Günther)

*Homalocranium moestum* Günther, 1863: 352.

Holotype.— British Museum of Natural History (BMNH) 1946.1.9.74 (formerly BMNH 64.1.26.119), female, collected by Osbert Salvin, date of collection unknown.

Type-locality.— "Province of Peten" (Depto. El Petén, Guatemala); restricted to Flores, Depto. El Petén, Guatemala, by Smith and Taylor (1950).

Distribution.— Low elevations of the Yucatan Peninsula in the Mexican states of Yucatán and Quintana Roo and the northern portion of the Guatemalan department of El Petén.

Systematic references. — Wilson (1982b, 1988g).

*Tantilla nigra* (Boulenger)

*Homalocranium nigrum* Boulenger, 1914: 816.

Holotype.— British Museum of Natural History (BMNH) 1946.1.8.69, female (?), received by museum in May, 1914 from Dr. H. G. F. Spurrell.

Type-locality.— Near Peña Lisa, Condoto (5°06'N, 76°37'W), elevation ca. 91 m, Depto. Chocó, Colombia.

Distribution.— Known only from the type locality.

Systematic references. — Wilson (1987a, 1992b).

Remarks.— This species remains known from only a single specimen.

*Tantilla nigriceps* Kennicott

*Tantilla nigriceps* Kennicott, 1860: 328.

*Scolecophis fumiceps* Cope, "1860" (1861): 371.

*Homalocranium praeoculum* Bocourt, 1883: 582.

*Tantilla kirnia* Blanchard, 1938: 373.

Syntypes.— National Museum of Natural History (USNM) 2046, not USNM 2040, as indicated by Smith and Taylor (1945: 140), collected by Captain Page, and USNM 4491, collected by Dr. S. W. Crawford. These specimens are not currently in the USNM collection (Steve W. Gotte, in litt.).

Type-locality.— Indianola to Nueces, Texas, and Fort Bliss, El Paso Co., Texas, restricted to the latter locality by Smith and Taylor (1950), which restriction, however, is invalid, as no lectotype has ever been designated.

Distribution.— Low, moderate, and intermediate elevations from southwestern Nebraska, eastern Colorado and western Kansas south through eastern and southern New Mexico, southeastern Arizona, and central and western Texas, USA, to eastern Chihuahua, northern Durango, and northern Tamaulipas in Mexico.

Systematic references. — Cole and Hardy (1981).

*Tantilla oaxacae* Wilson and Meyer

*Tantilla oaxacae* Wilson and Meyer, 1971: 26.

Holotype.— University of Illinois Museum of Natural History (UIMNH) 40910, adult male, collected in February, 1965 by Thomas MacDougall.

Type-locality.— Santo Tomás Teipan, Oaxaca, Mexico.

Distribution.— Moderate and intermediate elevations of the Pacific versant of southeast-central Oaxaca, Mexico.

Systematic references. — Wilson and Meyer (1971); Wilson (1990f).

*Tantilla oolitica* Telford

*Tantilla oolitica* Telford, 1966: 281.

Holotype.— Florida Museum of Natural History (UF) 17326, adult male collected in April 1955, collector unknown.

Type-locality.— In a vacant lot on southwest 27th Avenue near 27th Street, Miami, Dade County, Florida, USA.

Distribution.— Low elevations in Dade and Monroe counties, Florida, USA.

Systematic references. — Telford (1966, 1980a); Porras and Wilson (1979); Campbell and Moler *in Moler* (1992).

*Tantilla petersi* Wilson

*Tantilla petersi* Wilson, 1979: 274.

Holotype.— University of Michigan Museum of Zoology (UMMZ) 92074, adult female, collected 10 June 1934 by P. Hershkowitz.

Type-locality.— San Nicolás, Pimampiro [= Pimampiro, 0°26'N, 77°58'W], Prov. Imbabura, Ecuador.

Distribution.— Intermediate elevations of the extreme northern end of the Andean highlands of Ecuador.

Systematic references. — Wilson (1979, 1987a, 1991a).

*Tantilla planiceps* (Blainville)

*Coluber planiceps* Blainville, 1835: 294.

*Tantilla eiseni* Stejneger, "1895" (1896): 117.

*Tantilla eiseni transmontana* Klauber, 1943: 71.

Holotype.— Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris (MNHNP) 818, adult male collected in 1827-1829 by M. P. E. Botta.

Type-locality.— "California," restricted to southern Baja California del Sur (Cabo San Lucas) by Smith and Taylor (1950); restriction accepted by Cole and Hardy (1981).

Distribution.— Low and moderate elevations from southern California, USA, to the cape region of Baja California del Sur, Mexico; also known from Isla del Carmen in the Gulf of California.

Systematic references. — Cole and Hardy (1981, 1983c).

*Tantilla relictata* Telford

*Tantilla relictata* Telford, 1966: 270.

Holotype.— Florida Museum of Natural History (UF) 12421, adult female, collected 26 December 1960 by Sam R. Telford, Jr.

Type-locality.— South side of Babson Park, Polk Co., Florida, USA.

Distribution.— Low elevations of Peninsular Florida from southern Palm Beach, Highlands, and Charlotte counties north to Duval (based on sight records fide Telford, 1980), Columbia, and Taylor counties, USA.

Systematic references. — Telford (1966, 1980b).

*Tantilla reticulata* Cope

*T[antilla]. reticulata* Cope, 1860: 77.

*Microdromus virgatus* Günther, 1873: 17.

*Homalocranium sexfasciatum* Fischer, 1882: 225.

Holotype.— Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia (ANSP) 3361 (lost; E. Malnate, pers. comm.).

Type-locality.— "Cocuyas de Veraguas, New Grenada" (= Cocuyas, Prov. Veraguas, Panama).

Distribution.— Low and moderate elevations of the Caribbean versant of Central America from southeastern Nicaragua to Panama and the Caribbean and Pacific versants of northwestern Colombia.

Systematic references. — Wilson and Meyer (1971); Wilson (1982b, 1985j, 1987a).

*Tantilla rubra* Cope

*Tantilla miniator* Cope, 1863: 100 (see Remarks).

*Tantilla rubra* Cope, "1875" (1876): 144.

*Homalocranium boulengeri* Günther, 1895: 148.

*Tantilla morgani* Hartweg, 1944: 5

Holotype.— National Museum of Natural History (USNM) 26500, male, collected by Francois Sumichrast, catalogued 9 January 1900 after being returned to the USNM from Cope's estate.

Type-locality.— "Japana" (= Tapanatepec), Oaxaca, Mexico.



Distribution.— Low, moderate, and intermediate elevations of the Atlantic versant from central Nuevo León, Mexico, to western Guatemala; also on the Pacific versant in Oaxaca, Mexico.

Systematic references. — Dixon et al. (In press).

Remarks.— This taxon was recently revised by Dixon et al. (In Press), who synonymized *Tantilla miniata* Cope, 1863, and *T. morgani* Hartweg, 1944, with it. Given the priority of the name *miniata* over *rubra*, application will be made to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to conserve the name *rubra*. Also see the *T. cucullata* account.

*Tantilla schistosa* (Bocourt)

*Homalocranion schistosum* Bocourt, 1883: 584.

*Tantilla phrenetica* Smith, 1942: 33.

Lectotype.— Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris (MNHNP) 1883-506, sex, age status, and date of collection unknown, collected by M.-F. Bocourt (designated by Smith, 1942).

Type-locality.— "Alta Verapaz and Mexico," restricted to Depto. Alta Verapaz, Guatemala by Smith (1942).

Distribution.— Low, moderate, and intermediate elevations of the Atlantic versant from Veracruz and Oaxaca, Mexico, to Panama.

Systematic references. — Wilson (1982b, 1987b).

*Tantilla semicineta* (Duméril, Bibron, and Duméril)

*Homalocranion semi-cinctum* Duméril, Bibron, and Duméril, 1854: 862.

*Homalocranium laticeps* Günther, 1860: 240.

*Homalocranion lineatum* Fischer, 1883: 6.

Holotype.— Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris (MNHNP) 3695, adult female, collector and date of collection unknown.

Type-locality.— "Martinique," in error. Listed as "Colombia" by Peters and Orejas-Miranda (1970), without justification.

Distribution.— Low elevations of the Caribbean coastal regions of Colombia and Venezuela.

Systematic references. — Wilson (1976, 1987a, 1990g).

Remarks.— This species has both banded and striped phases (Wilson, 1976).

*Tantilla shawi* Taylor

*Tantilla shawi* Taylor, 1949: 207.

Holotype.— Louisiana State University Museum of Zoology (LSUMZ) 306, adult male, collected 28 August 1947 by Charles R. Shaw.

Type-locality.— Xilitla region (Rancho Miramar Grande), ca. 4500 feet (= ca. 1372 m), San Luis Potosí, Mexico.

Distribution.— Moderate elevations of the Atlantic versant on the eastern slopes of the Sierra Madre Oriental of southwestern San Luis Potosí and northwestern Veracruz, Mexico.

Systematic references. — Taylor (1949); Wilson (1976, 1991b); Campbell et al. (1995).

Remarks.— Two female specimens of this taxon, previously known from only the male holotype, were reported by Campbell et al. (1995). Campbell et al. (1995) indicated that this species appears to have no known close relatives within the genus.

*Tantilla slavensi* Pérez-Higareda, Smith, and Smith

*Tantilla slavensi* Pérez-Higareda et al., 1985: 290.

Holotype.— Herpetological collection of the Estación Biología Tropical "Los Tuxtlas," Univ. Nac. Autónoma México 1668, adult female, collected 17 April 1983 by Gonzalo Pérez-Higareda.

Type-locality.— Cerro Chochobi, El Acuyal area, 8 km NW Catemaco, elevation 800 m, Veracruz, Mexico.

Distribution.— Low to moderate (50-800 m) of the Atlantic versant in the Los Tuxtlas area of southeastern Veracruz, Mexico.

Systematic references. — Pérez-Higareda et al. (1985); Pérez-Higareda and Smith (1991).

*Tantilla striata* Dunn

*Tantilla striata* Dunn, 1928: 3.

Holotype.— American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) 19745, adult male, collected in 1919 by Paul D. Ruthling.

Type-locality.— Mixtequillo, Oaxaca, Mexico.

Distribution.— Low and moderate elevations of the Pacific versant of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec in the Mexican state of Oaxaca.

Systematic references. — Wilson and Meyer (1971); Wilson (1990h).

*Tantilla supracincta* (Peters)

*Homalocranion supracinctum* Peters, 1863: 272.

*Tantilla annulata* Boettger, 1892: 419.

Holotype.— Universität Humboldt, Zoologisches Museum, Berlin (ZMB) 4791, adult female, collected in about 1860 by C. Reib.

Type-locality.— "Guayaquil," Prov. Guayas, Ecuador.

Distribution.— Low and moderate elevations of the Caribbean versant from extreme southeastern Nicaragua to central Panama; also on the Pacific versant in Costa Rica, Panama, and Ecuador.

Systematic references. — Wilson (1982b, 1985d, 1987a).

Remarks.— The name *Tantilla annulata* Boettger (1892), long used for this taxon, was placed in the synonymy of this taxon by Wilson (1987a).

*Tantilla taeniata* (Bocourt)

*Homalocranium taeniatum* Bocourt, 1883: 587.

*Homalocranium trivittatum* Müller, 1885: 678.

Holotype.— Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris (MNHN) 1666, adult male, collected by A. Bouvier, date of collection unknown.

Type-locality.— "Guatemala" (restricted to "vicinity of Guatemala City" by Campbell, 1998).

Distribution.— Low to moderate elevations of both versants in southern Guatemala and western Honduras.

Systematic references. — Campbell (1998).

Remarks.— The concept of this taxon has changed markedly in recent years from that of Wilson and Meyer (1971), which changes were discussed by Campbell (1998), Smith et al. (1998), and Wilson and McCranie (In Press).

*Tantilla tayrae* Wilson

*Tantilla tayrae* Wilson, 1983: 54.

Holotype.— Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley (MVZ) 159203, adult male, collected 30 July 1978 by Robert L. Seib.

Type-locality.— Finca San Jerónimo, 7.5 km N (by rd.) Cacoahatán (= Cacahoatán or Cacahuatán), elevation 760 m, Volcán Tacaná, Municipio de Unión Juárez, Chiapas, Mexico.

Distribution.— Moderate elevations of the slopes of Volcán Tacaná on the Pacific versant of Chiapas, Mexico.

Systematic references. — Wilson (1983, 1990i); Campbell (1988).

Remarks.— Some comments on the status of this taxon are in Campbell (1998).

*Tantilla tecta* Campbell and Smith

*Tantilla tecta* Campbell and Smith, 1997: 333.

Holotype.— University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) R-41160, adult female, collected 29 June 1992 by Cristian Granizo.

Type-locality.— Slope flanking NE side of Laguna Yaxhá (17°03'43"N, 89°23'12"W), Depto. El Petén, Guatemala.

Distribution.— Known only from the type locality

Systematic references. — Campbell and Smith (1997).

Remarks.— This taxon is known from only a single specimen.

*Tantilla trilineata* (Peters)

*Leptocalamus trilineatus* Peters, 1880: 221.

Holotype.— Universität Humboldt, Zoologisches Museum, Berlin (ZMB) 9648, juvenile female, collected by H. Boeckmann, date of collection unknown.

Type-locality.— "Brazil," apparently in error.

Distribution.— Unknown.

Systematic references. — Wilson and Meyer (1971); Savitzky and Smith (1971).

Remarks.— This name was considered to be of indeterminate status by Wilson and Meyer (1971) and Wilson (1974), but to belong to a valid species by Savitsky and Smith (1971), as noted by Campbell (1998). In my opinion, its status still remains to be clarified, and it is here listed provisionally. If recognizable, it would belong to the *taeniata* group (Savitzky and Smith, 1971; Wilson and Meyer, 1971), as noted above.

*Tantilla triseriata* Smith and Smith

*Tantilla triseriata* Smith and Smith, 1951: 97.

Holotype.— University of Illinois Museum of Natural History (UIMNH) 20198, adult female, collected on 9 October 1949 by Thomas MacDougall.

Type-locality.— Coatlán, Oaxaca, Mexico.

Distribution.— Intermediate elevations of south-central Oaxaca, Mexico.

Systematic references. — Smith et al. (1998).

Remarks.— This taxon, placed in the synonymy of *T. taeniata* (Bocourt), 1883, was recently resurrected by Smith et al. (1998).

*Tantilla tritaeniata* Smith and Williams

*Tantilla tritaeniata* Smith and Williams, 1966: 483.

Holotype.— British Museum of Natural History (BMNH) 94.12.28.23, adult female, probably collected by G. F. Gaumer, date of collection unknown.

Type-locality.— Isla Bonacca (= Isla de Guanaja), Islas de la Bahía, Honduras.

Distribution.— Isla de Guanaja, Islas de la Bahía, Honduras.

Systematic references. — Wilson and McCranie (In press).

Remarks.— This taxon, placed in the synonymy of *T. taeniata* by Wilson and Meyer (1971), was recently resurrected by Wilson and McCranie (In Press).

*Tantilla vermiformis* (Hallowell)

*Lioninia vermiformis* Hallowell, 1861: 484.

Lectotype.— National Museum of Natural History (USNM) 32338 (originally catalogued as USNM 5792, part of a lot), adult (?) female, collected by Wright on North Pacific Exploring Expedition, originally catalogued February-March 1861 and recatalogued 18 September 1903, after being returned to the USNM from Cope's estate (designated by VanDevender and Cole, 1977).

Type-locality.— "Nicaragua."

Distribution.— Low elevations of the Pacific versant in El Salvador and from northwestern Nicaragua to northwestern Costa Rica.

Systematic references. — Van Devender and Cole (1977); Wilson (1982b, 1987c); Dueñas et al. (In press).

Remarks.— This species was recently reported from El Salvador by Dueñas et al. (in press). Its relationships to *T. brevicauda* and to members of the *calamarina* group were recently discussed by Wilson et al. (1999).

*Tantilla vulcani* Campbell

*Tantilla vulcani* Campbell, 1998: 11.

Holotype.— UTA R-21772, adult female collected by Carlos Mirón, April-May 1986.

Type-locality.— Finca El Carmen, km 197.5 on CA-2, 518 m elevation, Depto. Quezaltenango, Guatemala.

Distribution.— Low to moderate elevations (518-610 m) of the Pacific versant from eastern Oaxaca, Mexico, to south-central Guatemala.

Systematic references. — Campbell (1998).

Remarks.— This name was given by Campbell (1998) to material reported erroneously as *T. fusca* by Slevin (1939) and *T. jani* by Wilson and Meyer (1971) and Wilson (1985i). In addition to the material reported by Campbell (1998) in the original description, Wilson (1982b) reported a specimen of this species from extreme southeastern Chiapas, Mexico (CAS 140961).

*Tantilla wilcoxi* Stejneger

*Tantilla wilcoxi* Stejneger, 1902: 156.

*Tantilla deviatrice* Barbour, 1916: 93.

*Tantilla wilcoxi rubricata* Smith, 1942: 40.

Holotype.— USNM 19674, juvenile male collected in 1892 by Timothy E. Wilcox, M.D.

Type-locality.— Fort Huachuca, Huachuca Mts., Cochise Co., Arizona, USA.

Distribution.— Moderate to intermediate elevations of both versants from extreme southern Arizona southward and eastward through southwestern Chihuahua, northeastern Sinaloa, central Durango, Zacatecas, southeastern Coahuila, southern Nuevo León, and western San Luis Potosí in Mexico.

Systematic references. — Cole and Hardy (1981); Liner (1983).

Remarks.— The name *Tantilla deviatrice* Barbour, 1916, formerly attached to a purported subspecies of *T. bocourti* by Smith and Lafe (1945), was placed in the synonymy of this species by McDiarmid (1992).

*Tantilla yaquia* Smith

*Tantilla yaquia* Smith, 1942: 41.

*Tantilla bogerti* Hartweg, 1944: 1.

Holotype.— Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University (MCZ) 43274, female, collected in August 1936 by Howard S. Gentry.

Type-locality.— Guasaremos, Río Mayo, Chihuahua, Mexico.

Distribution.— Low, moderate, and intermediate elevations of the Pacific versant from southeastern Arizona, USA, to Nayarit, Mexico.

Systematic references. — McDiarmid (1968, 1977); Cole and Hardy (1981).

## Key

This identification key is based on those in Wilson (1982a, 1982b, 1987a) and Wilson et al. (1999), as well as other published and unpublished information.

1. Dorsum of body with lineate or transversely-banded pattern ----- 2  
    Dorsum of body unicolor or nearly so ----- 39
2. Dorsum of body with transversely-banded pattern ----- 3  
    Dorsum of body with lineate pattern ----- 5
3. Dorsal pattern of black-bordered pale crossbars on a dark red ground color (reddish brown to brown in preservative), frequently divided middorsally, with right and left portions displaced longitudinally and alternating with one another ----- *T. supracincta*  
    Dorsal pattern not as above ----- 4
4. Dorsal pattern of narrow transverse cream bands restricted to the anterior portion of the body on a bluish black to black ground color ----- *T. shawi*  
    Dorsal pattern of black crossbands over length of body on pale ground color -----  
    ----- *T. semicincta* (part)
5. Dorsal pattern of at least one dark middorsal stripe ----- 6  
    Dorsal pattern of at least one pale middorsal stripe, well defined or not, present length of body or not ----- 17
6. Subcaudals fewer than 30 (19-28) ----- *T. vermiformis*  
    Subcaudals more than 30 ----- 7
7. Dark nape band absent, pale nuchal spots in contact or confluent with dorsal ground color ----- 8  
    Dark nape band present, pale nuchal markings separated from dorsal ground color -- 12
8. Supralabials 6, rarely 5 ----- 9  
    Supralabials 7, rarely 6 ----- 10
9. Two postoculars; dark lateral stripe present only on forebody ----- *T. cascadae*  
    Single postocular; dark lateral stripe extends length of body ----- *T. calamarina*
10. Seventh supralabial in contact with parietal, separating anterior temporal from posterior one ----- *T. coronadoi*  
    Seventh supralabial separated from parietal, anterior and posterior temporals in contact with one another ----- 11

11. Middorsal dark stripe relatively broad, occupying as little as all of middorsal scale row or as much as middorsal row and adjacent halves of paravertebral rows; head pattern of spatulate dark anterior extension of middorsal dark stripe flanked by narrow longitudinal pale markings and short pale middorsally-interrupted nuchal collar set off markedly from ground color of dorsolateral field ----- *T. deppei*  
 Middorsal dark stripe relatively narrow, occupying middle of middorsal row, connected to dark markings along medial edges of scales of paravertebral row; head pattern of brown head cap with two corniform anterior extensions, followed by two pale nuchal spots, which grade posteriorly into dorsal ground color ----- *T. insulamontana*
12. Length of venter with narrow irregular median dark line ----- *T. miyatai*  
 No markings on medial portion of venter ----- 13
13. Dorsum of head with extensive pale pigment on dark background, including large pale marking on snout, confluent with pale markings on supraoculars and anterolateral portion of parietals, latter in contact with postocular pale spot ----- *T. andinista*  
 Pale markings on head confined to markings on snout (if present) and pale pre- and postocular spots ----- 14
14. Dorsal pattern multilineate, consisting of many dark stripes on a pale ground color, including dark stripes on dorsolateral field ----- *T. equatoriana*  
 Color pattern not as above, no dark striping on dorsolateral field ----- 15
15. Dorsal ground color tan with a narrow, diffuse, poorly-defined middorsal stripe and no pale lateral stripe; pale nuchal band complete or medially divided; head cap same color as dark nape band ----- *T. capistrata* (part)  
 Dorsal pattern not as above ----- 16
16. Head pattern of brown head cap with pair of small, indistinct nuchal spots, largely confined to scales posterior to parietals, and no dark lateral extension of head cap between postocular pale spots and pale pigment on lateral gulars; subcaudals relatively low, 36-44 ----- *T. lempira*  
 Color pattern variable, but head pattern of cream to dark brown head cap with pale nuchal collar complete, divided medially, divided medially and laterally, or reduced to two small spots centered on parietals, and dark lateral extension of head cap between postocular pale spot and pale pigment on lateral gulars usually present (except in some specimens from Costa Rica and western Panama); subcaudals variable, but relatively high, 41-92 ----- *T. melanocephala* (part)

17. Dorsal pattern of pair of dark dorsolateral fields three and two half scales in width flanking pale middorsal stripe occupying middorsal scale row and adjacent halves of paravertebral rows on otherwise pale ground color ----- *T. semicineta* (part)  
Dorsal pattern not as above ----- 18
18. Pale middorsal stripe absent ----- 19  
Pale middorsal stripe present ----- 23
19. Pale lateral stripe present the length of body ----- 20  
Pale lateral stripe interrupted along middle of body or present only on anterior portion of body ----- 21
20. Pale nuchal band reduced to two nuchal spots; pale lateral stripe well developed -----  
----- *T. jani* (part)  
Pale nuchal band complete; pale lateral stripe barely discernible ----- *T. cuniculator*
21. Pale lateral stripe present, but interrupted along middle of body ----- *T. briggsi*  
Pale lateral stripe confined to anterior portion of body ----- 22
22. Pale nuchal band poorly developed, confined to scales posterior to parietals; subcaudals fewer than 60 (44-49) ----- *T. tayrae* (part)  
Pale nuchal band well developed and crossing posterior portion of parietals; subcaudals more than 60 (single value known, 62) ----- *T. johnsoni*
23. Pale middorsal stripe poorly developed, consisting of a series of small disjunct spots confined to some amount of the anterior portion of body or present its length, or a slight paling of the color of middorsal row ----- 24  
Pale middorsal stripe well developed, confined to middorsal row or occupying middorsal row and adjacent portions of paravertebral rows ----- 28
24. Pale nuchal band divided both medially and laterally, upper segments appearing as a pair of pale spots ----- *T. jani* (part)  
Pale nuchal band complete or middorsally divided ----- 25
25. Pale nuchal band poorly developed, confined to scales posterior to parietals, divided broadly middorsally or both middorsally and laterally ----- *T. tayrae* (part)  
Pale nuchal band well developed, complete or middorsally divided, beginning on the middle to posterior portion of parietals ----- 26
26. Pale lateral stripe present, occupying adjacent portions of dorsal rows 3 and 4 -----  
----- *T. vulcani*  
Pale lateral stripe absent ----- 27



27. Barely to well-discernible dark nape band present, grading into ground color of dorsum; most of internasals and prefrontals cream colored; well-developed pre- and postocular pale spots present ----- *T. alticola* (part)  
 No dark nape band present; internasals and prefrontals same color as rest of head or only slightly paler; preocular pale spot absent; postocular pale spot usually poorly developed to absent ----- *T. schistosa* (part)
28. Subcaudals fewer than 30 (21-26) ----- *T. brevicauda*  
 Subcaudals more than 30 ----- 29
29. Pale lateral stripe occupying row 4 and adjacent halves of rows 3 and 5 ----- 30  
 Pale lateral stripe occupying adjacent halves of rows 3 and 4 ----- 32
30. Pale nuchal collar not crossing ultimate supralabial ----- *T. oaxacae*  
 Pale nuchal collar crossing ultimate supralabial ----- 31
31. Pale nuchal collar complete; venter essentially immaculate; subcaudals 55 or fewer -----  
 ----- *T. flavilineata*  
 Pale nuchal collar divided medially; well-defined dark stripe present on lateral edges of ventrals; subcaudals 58 or more ----- *T. reticulata*
32. Pale nuchal band reduced to two nuchal spots: subcaudals 42 or fewer (31-42) -----  
 ----- *T. striata*  
 Pale nuchal band complete, divided medially, or both medially and laterally ----- 33
33. Pale middorsal stripe confined to middorsal row ----- 34  
 Pale middorsal stripe present on middorsal scale row and adjacent portions of paravertebral rows ----- 38
34. Ventrals fewer than 150 ----- 35  
 Ventrals 155 or more ----- 36
35. Pale lateral stripe continues onto distal portion of tail ----- *T. tecta*  
 Pale lateral stripe does not continue onto tail ----- *T. trilineata*
36. Ventrals 163 or more (163-172); subcaudals 68 or more (68-72) ----- *T. impensa*  
 Ventrals 161 or fewer; subcaudals 65 or fewer ----- 37
37. Pale middorsal stripe becoming gradually obscured and fragmented posteriorly; subcaudals 56 or fewer (52-56) ----- *T. slavensi*  
 Pale middorsal stripe well developed the length of body; subcaudals 59 or more (59-65) ----- *T. tritaeniata*

38. Dorsolateral and ventrolateral dark fields uniform in color, dark edging of pale middorsal and lateral stripes not evident; middorsal pale stripe confined to middorsal scale row anteriorly, expanding onto adjacent portions of paravertebral rows posteriorly; scales of first dorsal scale row unpigmented on anterior half or more of body ----- *T. triseriata*  
Middorsal and lateral pale stripes dark edged, this edging darker than dorsolateral and ventrolateral dark fields; middorsal pale stripe occupying middorsal scale row and adjacent portions of paravertebral rows the length of body; upper half of first dorsal scale row darkly pigmented the length of body ----- *T. taeniata*
39. Postocular single ----- 40  
Postoculars usually 2 ----- 43
40. Head and nape white, remainder of dorsum dark olive ----- *T. albiceps*  
Dorsal coloration not as above ----- 41
41. Dorsum and venter black ----- *T. nigra*  
Dorsal coloration not as above ----- 42
42. Dorsum of head only slightly darker than remainder of body ----- *T. gracilis*  
Dorsum of head distinctly darker than remainder of body ----- *T. atriceps*
43. Dorsum and venter dark brown to black ----- *T. moesta*  
Coloration not as above ----- 44
44. Color of dorsum of head essentially the same as that of dorsum of body ----- 45  
Color of dorsum of head distinctly darker than that of dorsum of body ----- 49
45. No pale nuchal band present ----- *T. petersi*  
Pale nuchal band present ----- 46
46. Ventrals more than 160 (163-164) ----- *T. bairdi*  
Ventrals fewer than 155 ----- 47
47. Pale preocular spot absent; pale postocular spot present or not ----- *T. schistosa* (part)  
Both pale pre- and postocular spots present ----- 48
48. Well-developed complete pale nuchal band present, beginning on posterior portion of parietals ----- *T. alticola* (part)  
Poorly-developed broadly middorsally-interrupted pale nuchal band present, confined to scales posterior to parietals ----- *T. tayrae* (part)

49. Entire head dark above and below to point 3 to 4 scales posterior to parietals -----  
----- *T. cucullata* (part)  
Head pattern not as above ----- 50
50. Pale nuchal band absent ----- 51  
Pale nuchal band present ----- 53
51. Head cap convex or pointed posteriorly ----- *T. nigriceps*  
Head cap straight edged posteriorly ----- *T. oolitica* (part)
52. Hemipenis with 1 basal hook; ventrals 115-142 ----- *T. relicta* (part)  
Hemipenis with 2 basal hooks; ventrals 135-146 ----- *T. oolitica* (part)
53. Pale nuchal band crossing posterior portion of parietals ----- 54  
Pale nuchal band bordering parietals or present 1-3 scales posterior to parietals ---- 63
54. Dorsum of body coral red, reddish brown, or reddish tan ----- *T. rubra*  
Color of dorsum of body not as above ----- 55
55. Ventrals 160 or more ----- 56  
Ventrals fewer than 160 ----- 58
56. Dark nape band 3 or more scales in length ----- *T. melanocephala* (part)  
Dark nape band 2 or fewer scales in length ----- 57
57. Secondary temporal elongate; ventrals 140-164; black head cap extending ventrally to or  
below corner of mouth, including parts of 6th and 7th infralabials ----- *T. wilcoxi* (part)  
Secondary temporal about same size as dorsal body scales; ventrals 160-195;  
black head cap does not reach corner of mouth nor extend below it onto 6th and  
7th infralabials ----- *T. bocourti* (part)
58. Dark nape band 1.5 scales long or fewer ----- *T. wilcoxi* (part)  
Dark nape band usually 2 scales or more in length ----- 59
59. Pale nuchal band present, usually divided both medially and laterally -----  
----- *T. melanocephala* (part)  
Pale nuchal band present or not; if present, usually complete or divided only  
medially ----- 60
60. Dark nape band bounded posteriorly by pale neck band ----- *T. capistrata*  
No pale neck band present posterior to dark nape band ----- 61

61. Hemipenis with a single basal hook in basal third of organ ----- *T. relicta*  
 Hemipenis with two basal hooks, one in basal third of organ and the other  
 in mesal third ----- 62
62. Prominent pale nuchal band present, usually 3 or fewer scales in length at  
 dorsal midline ----- *T. coronata*  
 No prominent pale nuchal band usually present, if so, broken middorsally and usually  
 confined to scales posterior to parietals ----- *T. oolitica*
63. Pale nuchal band distinct, bordered behind by dark nape band ----- 64  
 Pale nuchal band distinct or not, not bordered posteriorly by dark pigment, or, if so,  
 pigment reduced to series of spots ----- 65
64. Pale nuchal band complete; subcaudals 38-63 ----- *T. bocourti* (part)  
 Pale nuchal band indistinctly to completely medially divided; subcaudals 63-83 -----  
 ----- *T. cucullata* (part)
65. Black head cap does not extend laterally below angle of mouth ----- *T. hobartsmithi*  
 Black head cap extends laterally below angle of mouth ----- 66
66. Extensive white postocular spot present, extending onto lower one-fourth to  
 three-fourths of anterior temporal ----- *T. yaquia*  
 No white pigment on anterior temporal ----- *T. planiceps*

### Distributional Commentary

The genus *Tantilla* is distributed from southern Virginia, southern Indiana, southwestern Illinois, southern Missouri, southwestern Nebraska, Kansas, eastern and extreme western Colorado, southern Utah, southern Nevada, and southern California, south through the peninsula of Baja California, and the large majority of mainland Mexico, throughout Central America, and into South America as far south as southern Peru, Bolivia, northern Argentina, and Uruguay. The genus is also distributed on Isla del Carmen in the Gulf of California, the Tres Mariás Islands off the Pacific coast of mainland Mexico, the Bay Islands of Honduras, and Trinidad and Tobago in the British West Indies.

Four major regions, thus, are inhabited by species of *Tantilla* (Table 1). They are the United States, Mexico, Central America, and South America. The United States is occupied by 11 species in the genus (Table 1). Three of these species (*T. coronata*, *T. oolitica*, and *T. relicta*) are distributed east of the Mississippi River Valley. The remaining eight species (*T. atriceps*, *T. cucullata*, *T. gracilis*, *T. hobartsmithi*, *T. nigriceps*, *T. planiceps*, *T. wilcoxi*, and *T. yaquia*) occur largely west of the Mississippi River Valley. The only species of western U.S. *Tantilla*

residing east of this valley is *T. gracilis*, which occurs in extreme southwestern Illinois. Four species are endemic (36.4%) to the United States (*T. coronata*, *T. cucullata*, *T. oolitica*, and *T. relicta*).

Mexico is the region inhabited by the largest number of species in the genus, i.e., twenty-seven (Table 1). Seven of these 27 species also occur in the United States (*T. atriceps*, *T. gracilis*, *T. hobartsmithi*, *T. nigriceps*, *T. planiceps*, *T. wilcoxi*, and *T. yaquia*). *Tantilla cucullata* is the only species occurring west of the Mississippi River Valley that has not been recorded in Mexico, although it occurs just to the north of the Rio Grande Valley in the Big Bend and Trans-Pecos regions of western Texas. Fourteen species in the genus are endemic (51.9%) to Mexico (*T. bocourti*, *T. briggsi*, *T. calamarina*, *T. cascadae*, *T. coronadoi*, *T. deppei*, *T. flavilineata*, *T. johnsoni*, *T. oaxaca*, *T. shawi*, *T. slavensi*, *T. striata*, *T. tayrae*, and *T. triseriata*).

Nineteen species of *Tantilla* reside in Central America (Table 1). Six of these species are shared with Mexico (*T. cuniculator*, *T. impensa*, *T. moesta*, *T. rubra*, *T. schistosa*, and *T. vulcani*). Most of these species have made relatively small inroads into either Mexico or Central America. Only *T. schistosa* inhabits a significant range on either side of the Mexican-Central American border. Nine species of *Tantilla* are endemic (47.4%) to Central America (*T. albiceps*, *T. bairdi*, *T. brevicauda*, *T. jani*, *T. lempira*, *T. taeniata*, *T. tecta*, *T. tritaeniata*, and *T. vermiformis*).

South America is home to twelve species of *Tantilla* (Table 1). Four of these species also occur in Central America (*T. alticola*, *T. melanocephala*, *T. reticulata*, and *T. supracincta*). Only one of these species (*T. melanocephala*) is broadly distributed in South America, and it is the most broadly distributed species of *Tantilla*. Eight species are endemic (66.7%) to South America (*T. andinista*, *T. capistrata*, *T. equatoriana*, *T. insulamontana*, *T. miyatai*, *T. nigra*, *T. petersi*, and *T. semicincta*).

*Tantilla*, thus, is only one of twelve snake genera that are widely distributed enough to occur from the United States to South America (the other eleven are *Coniophanes*, *Crotalus*, *Drymarchon*, *Drymobius*, *Lampropeltis*, *Leptodeira*, *Leptotyphlops*, *Masticophis*, *Micrurus*, *Oxybelis*, and *Rhadinaea*).

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TABLE 1

Distribution of Species of *Tantilla* by Region

Species	USA	Mexico	Central America	South America
<i>T. albiceps</i>			x	
<i>T. alticola</i>			x	x
<i>T. andinista</i>				x
<i>T. atriceps</i>	x	x		
<i>T. bairdi</i>			x	
<i>T. bocourti</i>		x		
<i>T. brevicauda</i>			x	
<i>T. briggsi</i>		x		
<i>T. calamarina</i>		x		
<i>T. capistrata</i>				x
<i>T. cascadae</i>		x		
<i>T. coronadoi</i>		x		
<i>T. coronata</i>	x			
<i>T. cucullata</i>	x			
<i>T. cuniculator</i>		x	x	
<i>T. deppei</i>		x		
<i>T. equatoriana</i>				x
<i>T. flavilineata</i>		x		
<i>T. gracilis</i>	x	x		
<i>T. hobartsmithi</i>	x	x		
<i>T. impensa</i>		x	x	
<i>T. insulamontana</i>				x
<i>T. jani</i>			x	
<i>T. johnsoni</i>		x		
<i>T. lempira</i>			x	
<i>T. melanocephala</i>			x	x
<i>T. miyatai</i>				x
<i>T. moesta</i>		x	x	
<i>T. nigra</i>				x
<i>T. nigriceps</i>	x	x		
<i>T. oaxacae</i>		x		
<i>T. oolitica</i>	x			
<i>T. petersi</i>				x
<i>T. planiceps</i>	x	x		
<i>T. relictata</i>	x			
<i>T. reticulata</i>			x	x
<i>T. rubra</i>		x	x	
<i>T. schistosa</i>		x	x	
<i>T. semicincta</i>				x
<i>T. shawi</i>		x		
<i>T. slavensi</i>		x		
<i>T. striata</i>		x		
<i>T. supracincta</i>			x	x

T. taeniata			X	
T. tayrae		X		
T. tecta			X	
T. triseriata		X		
T. tritaeniata			X	
T. vermiformis			X	
T. vulcani		X	X	
T. wilcoxi	X	X		
T. yaquia	X	X		