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A NEW RACE OF *LEPTODEIRA* FROM NORTHERN  
CENTRAL AMERICA

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In a recent paper the junior author recorded two specimens of *Leptodeira* collected at La Libertad, El Petén, Guatemala, by the late Harry Malleis, as *Leptodeira septentrionalis yucatanensis* (Cope).<sup>1</sup> The senior author has compared the specimens with the type of *yucatanensis* and has found that, while they agree with that form in scutellation and cephalic pattern, they show a marked increase in the number of dorsal bands. Additional research and correspondence has brought out the fact that true *yucatanensis* is restricted to the semiarid tip of the Yucatan Peninsula, while the more humid area to the south, including British Honduras, El Petén, and Campeche, harbors an undescribed form which may be called

*Leptodeira yucatanensis malleisi*, subsp. nov.<sup>2</sup>

HOLOTYPE.—Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan,

<sup>1</sup> L. C. Stuart, "A Contribution to a Knowledge of the Herpetological Fauna of El Petén, Guatemala," *Occ. Papers Mus. Zool., Univ. Mich.*, 292, 1934: 6.

<sup>2</sup> Named in honor of Mr. Harry Malleis, collector for the Biological Survey, who died at Flores, El Petén, Guatemala, March 1, 1931, of blackwater fever contracted while exploring central El Petén.

No. 73230. An adult female collected by Mr. C. L. Lundell in 1932, at Tuxpeña, Campeche, Mexico.<sup>3</sup>

DIAGNOSIS.—A *Leptodeira* very close to *Leptodeira yucatanensis yucatanensis*, from which it may be distinguished by the greater number of dorsal body rhombs, 25–39 as compared with 18–23 in *yucatanensis*, and by the fact that the dorsal rhombs do not impinge upon the ventral scales as in *yucatanensis*. From *Leptodeira rhombifera* Günther, which occupies high Guatemala and Chiapas and which it most resembles in pattern, it may be distinguished by the lower number of dorsal scales, 21 as opposed to 23 or 25 in Guatemalan *rhombifera*, and by the higher number of ventrals, 174–191 (10 average 182), as opposed to 160–172 (10 average 169) in Guatemalan *rhombifera*.

DESCRIPTION OF HOLOTYPE.—Head scutellation normal. Supralabials 8, fourth and fifth entering the eye; infralabials 10. One large praeocular with a small subocular below it; one postocular; temporals 1 + 2. Two pairs of chin shields of about equal length. Dorsals 21–19–17–15, ventrals 184, subcaudals 64, anal divided. Body length 360 mm., tail length 87 mm.

In alcohol the ground color of the dorsum is a brownish white stippled with dark brown laterally. Superimposed on this are 26 dark-edged, dark brown rhombs on the body, and 11 on the tail. Mid-dorsally these rhombs average from 4–7 scales in width and become narrower laterally reaching a vertex on the first scale row. Laterally, small dark brown spots are superimposed on the lighter ground color between the rhombs. The head is grayish brown above, stippled and mottled with darker brown. A dark brown line extends from the parietals to the first body rhomb, and on each side of the head another, lighter-edged, dark line reaches from the eye through the corner of the mouth laterally to the first rhomb. The labials are light, mottled with brown. Chin, throat, belly,

<sup>3</sup> Tuxpeña is a chicle station in southwestern Campeche. It is about 125 kilometers south and a little east of Champoton, Campeche.

and under side of the tail brownish white, immaculate for the most part, but in spots stippled with brown.

PARATYPES.—We have examined and designated as paratypes the following specimens: Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan, Nos. 73229 (Tuxpeña, Campeche, Mexico), 74881–74886 (vicinity of La Libertad, El Petén, Guatemala); United States National Museum, Nos. 24901, 24908, 26354, 56010–56012 (Belize, British Honduras), 71367, 71369 (La Libertad, El Petén, Guatemala); Field Museum of Natural History, Nos. 3481 (2), 4249, 4446, 4447 (Belize, British Honduras).

RANGE.—Although known only from the above localities, the species probably ranges throughout British Honduras, El Petén, Campeche, and Yucatan south of the semiarid district in the north.

VARIATION.—This new race appears to be remarkably constant in all characters. The dorsal rhombs range 25–39, the ventral scutes 174–191, and the caudals 64–81. Head scutellation is the same throughout with the exception that there are normally 2 postoculars (in the type the inferior postoculars are fused with supralabial 5), and there are occasional specimens with 3 praeoculars. Coloration and pattern are extremely constant except for the lateral band from the eye to the first rhomb, which is occasionally not continuous.

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