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MEMOIR ON AMPHIBIA

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There are within the territory of the United States two known species of *crotalus*. The *crotalus miliaris* and the *crotalus horridus* of Linnaeus. There is however another, well distinguished by the inhabitants of the south. The *miliaris* is called the ground rattlesnake, and is so named because it keeps itself frequently under ground. When it comes to the surface it is most pleased in the grass, and is the more dangerous as it is difficult to be perceived. The second is known under the name of the pine-barren rattlesnake; and so named, because in the summer, that is, in the season that it quits its retreat and seeks its food, this reptile is found in those dry and arid lands which produce pines only. The third, a non-descript, and known by the name of the water rattlesnake, is larger than the former, is commonly confined to low grounds, and as it lives near the waters, might be presumed to make its food of frogs. Nevertheless I have assisted at the opening of many, (which had been killed for the sake of diminishing their number, and extracting the grease, of which an oil is prepared pretended to be of superior efficacy in rheumatic and other pains, but which in fact has no advantage over other unctuous substances) but I never found in their stomachs any thing besides birds, squirrels or rabbits. This new species, which is spoken of neither by Catesby nor Linnaeus, nor by any author with whom I am acquainted, appears to have been confounded with the *crotalus horridus*. It differs from it notwithstanding, essentially, both by its habits and external form. The *boiquira* is marked across the back by dark brown transversal lines, a little diagonal, terminated, on each side, by a spot almost round, of the same colour. The back of the other serpent is covered with parallelograms or lozenges of a browner colour than the rest of the body, and terminated by a yellow border. These differences may be readily observed in the annexed figures, Nos. 1. and 2. After the discovery of this new species of serpent, I incline to think that the term *horridus*, which is equally applicable to both, ought no longer to subsist. I propose then to call No. 1. *crotalus boiquira*, a name by which it is generally known : and No. 2. ***crotalus adamanteus***, after the form of the marks upon its back.

