

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
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**Contributions to the Herpetology of Tropical America.  
BY E. D. COPE.**

**Caudisona basilisca.**

Two pairs of symmetrical muzzle plates in contact ; third or posterior pair subdivided. Rostral subtriangular, higher than wide, in immediate contact with nasals and frontals. Oblique length of postnasal equal horizontal length of prenasal ; latter separated by small scales from the anterior labials. Fourteen superior labials, separated from the suborbital series by two and three rows of scales. Three flat plates between the elongate, flat superciliaries. Temporals smooth. Scales in twenty-nine rows, external largest, and with two next on each side smooth. Tail stout, surrounded by thirteen longitudinal rows at the middle. Rattle very acuminate, with a lateral groove. Gastrosteges 199 ; urosteges 20 single, four terminal divided. End of muzzle to rictus 1 in. 10 l., to vent 44 in. 8 l. ; vent to base of rattle 3 in. 1 l.

Ground color pale yellowish brown, much replaced by the following markings, which are on entire scales, not parts: about thirty dorsal rhombs from a short distance posterior to head to opposite vent, of a bright chestnut red, browner medially and white bordered ; five scales long and fourteen wide inside the white border, on the median part of the body, where they are in contact. Posteriorly they are separated, anteriorly elongate. Laterally, between each rhomb, a spot of bright chestnut. Belly and inferior scales yellow, every second or third lateral the base of a short oblique chestnut band. Head dark brown ; two elongate occipital spots. Superior labials yellowish. A narrow yellowish line from the small eye to the rictus. No lines on the neck. Tail dark grey, with five obscure rings.

*Hab.* - Near Colima, Mexico. From Consul John Xantus' collections. Mus. Smithsonian, No. 6118.

This species belongs in the section embracing the South American species, and the *C. molossus*, from all which it is quickly distinguishable. It has fewer labials and more scales below the eye than molossus, and possesses a different pattern of coloration, though the tints are nearly the same. The affinities with *adamanteus* and *atrox* are not distant ; the plates of the muzzle and coloration are different.