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**Descriptions of new Reptiles from California.
By Edward Hallowell, M. D.**

Crotalus cerastes, nob.

Sp. Char.- Head covered with polygonal tubercles, larger in front, the latter in three rows; two small quadrangular plates on each side, between the nostril and the vertical rostral ; two quadrangular internasals ; external border of supraciliary plates developed, so as to present two horn-like processes, one on each side of the head at their middle; nostrils small; pits between the eyes and nostrils large ; twenty rows of carinated scales, the inferior rows near the abdomen smooth; body slender, much compressed; tail very short, with three or four rattles.

Coloration. Head ash color above, a black band running from the posterior margin of the orbit to within a line of the occiput ; a series of forty-one transverse brownish bands, yellow in the centre, along the back; general color of animal above light yellow; several transverse bands upon the tail ; under surface light yellow, slightly clouded with spots near the external margin of the abdomen; abdom. scut. 146 ; two rows of bifid post-abdom. scutell. ; 14 single caudal scuta ; three inferior rows bifid.

Dimensions. Length of head 5 lines; greatest breadth 4 lines; length of body 8 and 3-8th inches; of tail, $\frac{3}{4}$; total length $9 \frac{3}{4}$ inches.

Hab.- Borders of the Mohave river, and in the desert of the Mohave, always in the dry sandy soil, with no vegetation whatever. Maximum size one foot and a half; occurs in large numbers, and is also seen in the Desert of the Colorado, but is much less abundant, Dr. Heermann not having observed it there. The river Mohave spreads itself out in the desert and there loses itself, and upon the floating sand hills near it these animals are found. The *Crotalus Lecontii* is never seen with them. The Mohave empties into a salt lake about 15 miles in extent.

Gen. Remarks. I supposed that this animal might be the young of *Crotalus Lecontii*, but Dr. Heermann informs me that the *Lecontii* is never found with it, and that it never attains to more than a foot and a half in length, and always presents the horn-like processes above described. It would appear to be the representative of the *Vipera Cerastes* of Africa, and is found, like that serpent, in desert and sandy regions, and is also slow and sluggish in its movements. The genus *Cerastes*, proposed by Wagler and adopted by Dumeril and Bibron, it would appear should be dropped and *Vipera* substituted.