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## On three new forms of Rattlesnakes

Robert Kennicott

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### **Caudisona lepida** *Kennicott.*

*Spec. char.* Head ovoid, tapering to the nose, which is very narrow, pointed and much depressed. Nostril very small, circular and placed near the point of the nose in about the middle of a single nasal. Two elongated frontals in contact, extending behind the nostrils. Superciliaries and other large plates smooth. Rostral sub-triangular, broader than high, the apex turned back slightly upon the crown. Upper pre-orbital small and separated from the post nasal by the width of two larger plates. Labials rather large, 12 above 10-12 below. Color of head yellowish ash.

Two heads of a rattlesnake from Presidio del Norte and Eagle Pass show such remarkable features as to render it justifiable to describe the species from these alone.

The head is much depressed, the general outline ovoid, tapering regularly from about opposite the angle of the mouth to the nose. The crown is remarkably smooth and the occipital scales very faintly carinated. There are two large frontals elongated laterally and posteriorly, with their inner ends in contact. They are convex on their external, and concave on their internal edges, and extend for nearly half their length back of the nostril. Behind and fitting into the emargination formed by these, are two subquadrangular and smaller plates in contact; immediately behind these is another similar pair. On each side of these two last pairs, at the edge of the crown, between the superciliaries and anterior frontals, is a larger plate. The superciliaries are rather small, and, like the other larger plates quite smooth; the space between the superciliaries is narrow, and filled with irregular rather large scales; the posterior part of the crown is also covered with rather large and smooth scales. The pre-orbitals are remarkable; the lower is, as usual, small and elongated over the pit, but the upper, very small and quadrangular, is separated from the nasal by the length of two plates, each larger than itself. In all the other species the upper pre-orbital is large, more or

less elongated and in contact with the post nasal or only separated from it by the width of one smaller plate. The sub-orbital chain is complete, and there is only a single row of scales between it and the labials. The color of the head is uniform yellowish or light brownish ash without any distinct spots or stripes, though each plate is minutely mottled with brownish, and with a few scattering large black dots, and there is very faint indication of the usual posterior facial stripe extending over the angle of the mouth.

The body of this species will doubtless exhibit characters as important as those of the head. It will at once be distinguished from *C. molossus* and *C. tigris* by the single nasal, position of pre-orbitals, number and comparative size of labials, and number of rows between the sub-orbitals and labials, and by the narrow pointed nose instead of the broad blunt snout of *C. molossus* and *C. tigris*. It disagrees also with *C. lucifer* in all of the above characters, excepting the size of labials and the narrow nose, and differs widely from that species in the depressed snout, wide rostral, and perfectly smooth plates and scales on the head. By the smoothness and size of the plates, and absence of the horn, it will at once be distinguished from *C. cerastes*. It will be impossible to confound it with any of the eastern species.