

Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia

Vol.17

Third Contribution to the Herpetology of Tropical America

Edward D. Cope

1865

Caudisona polysticta.

The species which I call by this name reminds, at first sight, of the *Bothriechis mexicanus*, and the head markings resemble those of the South American *Trigonocephalus alternatus*. The pattern of color is, however, more broken than in either, and represents a new type in the genus.

The superciliary plates are normal; the rostral higher than broad, acuminate; two marginals between them, the anterior pair linear, separated by a small plate, the posterior broad oval, separated by two rather narrow plates. Three between the superciliaries, the outer large. Two nasals, two loreals, one above the other. Superior labials fourteen, separated from the orbit by two rows of smooth scales; inferior labials thirteen; temporals smooth. Rows of scales twenty-seven, all keeled, except the outer two. Gastrostega 123, urostega 19, the first only divided. Crepitaculum slender, acuminate, delicate for the size of the animal; joints eleven. The color above is laterally gray brown, medially yellowish brown, marked by seven longitudinal series of brownish black spots. These alternate; the inferior involves the tips of the gastrosteges; the median embraces the largest spots, eight and nine scales wide, which are occasionally subdivided, the halves alternating. The tail is brown, crossed by three pairs of dark brown bars. Lips pale, with a spot below the pit, and one from behind the eye to near the canthus of the mouth. A dark band convex forwards extends between the eyes, and is continued below the eye nearly to the labial border. A pair of blackish bands form a V-shaped figure, the limbs diverging over the temples, each followed by a spot: two small round spots in the angle of the V, and a broad divergent band from the occiput on each side of the nape. Below pale, each scute with a broad basal border of blackish spots and punctulations. Length of rictus of mouth, 11 lines; breadth between eyes 5 lines; length of tail, 15 ½ lines; of rattle, 13 lines; total, 23 inches, 9 lines.

Habitat. Table Land, Mexico.

In the related *C. triseriata*, there are twenty-three rows of scales, a broader front, and different coloration.