

Crotalus pricei Van Denburgh

PRICE'S RATTLESNAKE

Description.—Size small. Head subtriangular, with flattened top. Rostral nearly as broad as high, in contact with anterior nasal plate. Two nasals. Two preoculars. Usually one loreal, sometimes two. Internasals proportionally rather large. A large scale just in front of supraocular. Supraocular large but not raised into a horn-like process, separated from its fellow by from one to three scales. Superior labials nine to 11, separated from eye by one row of scales. Inferior labials nine to 11, first pair in contact on median line. Scales in 21 or 23 rows, keeled except in parts of the first and second rows. Gastrosteges varying from 151 to 162. Anal entire. Urosteges 19 to 27, the first and from two to nine posterior usually divided. Rattle very slender and delicate.

The general ground color is olive gray so thickly covered with minute brown dots as to give a decidedly brownish hue. A narrow dark brown band of uniform width runs back and down from the eye, just touching the upper angles of the eighth and ninth labials without involving them. The scales below this band are vinaceous cream. There are two small seal brown spots on the occiput. The genials and gulars are yellow, tinged with vinaceous laterally. The rest of the head is unicolor. Along each side of the back is a series of from 54 to 60 small brown blotches. Anteriorly these have a tendency to alternate, but posteriorly they unite with one another to form cross-bars. There are seven similar brown bars on the tail. The dorsal blotches are seal brown, palest centrally, and are edged with very pale brown or white. They are about one and one-half scales long, and from two to three rows of scales wide. They are separated

from the other blotches on the same side of the back by about one and one-half scales, and from those of the opposite side by the width of one scale. There are two or three rows of smaller alternating brown spots on the sides. The gastrosteges, except anteriorly, are dark slate. The edges of the gastrosteges and of the scales of the first row are whitish. The tip of the tail is bright salmon or flesh-color.

Length to anus.....	309	319	395	406	445	460	480
Length of tail to base of rattle.....	32	29	38	41	30	40	43

Distribution.—This beautiful little rattlesnake is known only from southeastern Arizona. It has been taken in the Huachuca Mountains, in Cochise County, and at an altitude of 7,500 feet, on a ridge near Old Baldy, Madera Canyon, Santa Rita Mountains, Santa Cruz County. Another was taken near the summit of Old Baldy. It is said that this species occurs also in the Catalina Mountains. In the Chiricahua Mountains it has been collected on Onion Creek near Paradise, Cochise County. The National Museum has it from the Apache Forest, and from 6,100 feet altitude on Ash Creek, Mount Graham.