

On the reptiles and Batrachians of North America

NORTH AMERICAN REPTILES, PART I. OPHIDIA—Serpents

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CROTALUS EXSUL *n. sp.*

Comparatively slender; neck small; head large, broad behind, outline as seen from above a suboval; snout short, broad; tail short. Eye moderately large. Head covered with small imbricate striate scales; a pair of larger ones in contact with the rostral and each other, another pair in contact with the nasals, but separated by a pair of small prefrontals. A larger scale on each side between supraciliary and postnasal. Supraciliaries large, striate.

Rostral higher than wide, subtriangular, rather pointed above. Anterior nasals large, narrowing toward the rostral; posterior-higher and shorter.

Loreals two, or upper fused with prefrontal. Anteorbitals two, upper large, lower elongate, narrow. Three plates surround the pit, in front of which is a group of smaller scales (7—11). Sub and postorbitals 6—7. Anterior orbital separated from the sixth labial by two scales. Cheek scales larger than labials, smooth.

Labials 16—17, sixth largest. Anterior pair of infralabials small, not in contact. A pair of moderately large and broad submentals, separated in the anterior half of their length by a pair of wedged-shaped plates. The mental is separated from the submentals, and the anterior infralabials from each other by a pair of polygonal plates somewhat larger than the labials. Scales in 27 rows, striate and keeled, except the outer two. Ventrals 188+24. Rattle resembling that of *adamanteus*. In the specimen described, which is quite small, from the hindmost ring of the rattle to the fifth there are eight which show a very slight increase in size; in front of these the next has suddenly enlarged, and from this to the twelfth and most recent the size remains the same.

Light greyish-brown. Shapes of markings similar to those of *C. lucifer*.

About thirty-three rounded, dark-edged spots on the back, separated by whitish spaces of a scale in width, and twice as many small spots on the lower edge of the flank, which also bears faint indications of a series alternating with the dorsal. Tail, with a dorsal series of black spots opposed to others on each side, with which they are more or less confluent. Belly uniform white or clouded lightly with olive near the flanks. Head nearly uniform brownish-grey, with faint indications of a light band from the frontal region to the central and hinder labials. A very faint band of light behind the eye toward the angle of the mouth.

Total length 20 inches; tail 1 ½ inches.

Hab. Cedros Island, Lower California.

Prof. Alex. Agassiz, two specimens.