

# **PROCEEDINGS OF THE CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES**

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## **Description of a New Species of Rattlesnake (*Crotalus lucasensis*) from Lower California**

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The first specimens of the diamond rattlesnake of the Cape Region of Lower California were sent from Cape San Lucas by John Xantus. Cope recorded them, in 1861, as *Caudisona atrox sonoraensis*, but remarked that they were more delicately tinted than Sonoran specimens, the dorsal rhombs being more perfect and their yellow borders brighter. A considerable number of specimens have been collected in southern Lower California in more recent years, and have been recorded usually as *C. atrox*. The differences in coloration, however, seem to be of such constancy as to make it desirable to regard the San Lucan snakes as a species distinct from both *C. atrox* and the reddish *C. exsul*. I, therefore, propose for this snake the name

### ***Crotalus lucasensis*, new species**

*Diagnosis*.—Similar to *C. atrox* but coloration brighter, much less punctulate, and with dorsal rhombs more completely enclosed in light borders.

*Type*.—Cal. Acad. Sci. No. 45888, collected by Joseph R. Slevin at Agua Caliente, Cape Region of Lower California, July 26, 1919.

*Distribution*.—The southern portion of Lower California, Mexico.

*Description of type.*—Large. Head broad, flat-topped; rostral higher than wide, in contact with anterior nasal. Two nasals; two preoculars; three postoculars; two loreals. Supraocular large, not raised into a horn-like process, separated from its fellow by about six or seven irregular rows of scales. Sixteen and seventeen superior and nineteen inferior labials, the first pair of the latter divided horizontally as in *C. exsul*. A single pair of genials. About five rows of scales between supralabials and eye. Scales in twenty-seven rows, keeled except in one or two rows on each side. Gastrosteges 186; urosteges 26.

The general color is yellowish-brown, or brownish-yellow, with a series of large, darker brown blotches along the back. These blotches are well defined, are usually enclosed in continuous light borders laterally as well as dorsally, and show little of the punctulate or pepper-and-salt style of coloration so characteristic of *C. atrox*. The sides are clouded or blotched with brown, more or less indefinitely outlined with light yellow or white. The head is somewhat mottled above. A yellow or white stripe runs across the side of the face from the preocular plates to the mouth. The scales behind and above this light stripe are darker than the ground color and are set off posteriorly by a light streak which runs down and back from the corner of the mouth. The tail is grayish with about four to six black cross-bands. The lower surfaces are yellowish-white.

Length to anus.....1070 mm.

Length of tail to base of rattle .....90 mm.