

# Proceedings of the United States National Museum

Vol. 14

## A critical review of the characters and variations of the snakes of North America

Edward D. Cope

1891

### *Crotalus adamanteus ruber* Cope.

Rostral plate a little wider than high; plates of upper side of canthus rostralis smaller than in other subspecies, the posterior especially smaller than the anterior, and partly decurved laterally. One loreal. Five rows of scales between orbit and labial; eight rows between super ciliary plates. Second pair of inferior labials with the marginal portion cut oft from the postsymphyseal portion. (Pehaps an abnormality.)

The color is light red, marked above with deep red spots. These are of a longitudinal oval form anteriorly, but posteriorly they have a diamond-shaped form. They have no distinct lateral borders, either light or dark; but they are separated on the median line of the back by a single row of yellow-tipped scales. Traces of brownish red indefinite spots opposite their lateral angles as well as their intervals. Head without marking, except a faint trace of a pale line from the eye to the border of the mouth below it. Inferior surfaces yellow. Tail white with five black cross bands, of which all but the first are complete rings.

Catalogue No.: 9209; 27, 17: 186, 26: 1245 mm (with rattle); 122 mm with rattle; rattle (seven joints and a button) 44 mm

This peculiar and handsome form is connected with the subspecies *atrox* by the specimen 8856, which has a similar head sentellation. The absence of either light or dark borders to the dorsal spots in the *C. a. ruber* gives it a much more aberrant appearance.