

BIOLOGIA CENTRALI - AMERICANA

REPTILIA AND BATRACHIA

BY

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Crotalus salvini, sp. n. (Tab. LIX. fig. A.)

Crotalus molossus, Garman, Bull. Essex Inst. xix. p. 123 (nec Baird & Gir.) (1888).

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Hab. MEXICO, Huamantla, alt. 8000 feet (*Rymer Jones*), Alvarez Mts.,
near San Luis Potosi (*Garman*).

Habit stout ; 173 ventral scutes ; scales very strongly keeled, with a groove on each side of the high keel, in twenty-five rows, the scales of the four outer series being smooth. The upper surface of the head is covered with small scutes symmetrically arranged and passing posteriorly into scales ; these scutes are concave in the middle, and have the margins turned upwards in a peculiar manner ; four of them, which are small, take the place of the anterior frontals, the four succeeding that of the posterior frontals ; the place of the vertical is occupied by two pairs of scutes with an unpaired median ; finally, the remaining scale-like scutes are distinctly so arranged as to indicate the initial formation of a pair of occipitals. All the scutes and scales of the upper part of the head are finely striated. Sides of the head deep, the upper labial shields being separated from the orbit by four series of scales. Rostral as wide as deep. Nostril large ; the anterior nasal large and quadrangular, the posterior being a narrow rim round the nostril. Thirteen small upper labials, smaller than the scales covering the temple.

Greyish-olive, with thirty-two subquadrangular dark brown spots along the back, two series of smaller spots along the side ; upper surface of the head black anteriorly, an oblique deep brown spot from the eye towards the angle of the mouth. Tail banded. Lower parts uniform whitish.

A single female specimen is 30 inches long, and had ten embryos in its oviduct ; its rattle is strongly compressed, with a lateral groove, and consists of nine joints.

Beside other points of disagreement, a comparison of the figure of the head, given by Baird and Girard in Pac. R. R. Report, x. t. 24. fig. 5, of *Crotalus molossus*, will prove the distinctness of Salvin's Rattlesnake from the latter species.