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***Caudisona scutulata* Kennicott**

Spec. char. Resembles *C. lucifer* in form and coloration of head, and *C. atrox* in coloration of body. Head narrow, nose depressed, rostral triangular, as wide as high. Two rather small frontal plates in contact ; 4 post frontals, the external large, overlying the nostril. The space between the superciliaries narrow, filled with large flat plates. Scales on the occiput large and smoother than in *C. lucifer*. Outer dorsal rows of scales less strongly carinated. Rattle remarkably slender. Dorsal rows 25. Labials 16 above, 16 below. Three rows of scales between the suborbitals and labials. Light stripe from angle of eye to angle of jaw above the labials, and another from before the eye to the labials, as in *C. lucifer*, but the rostral and space in front of the pit, and nostril not lighter than the crown. On the middle third of the body a dorsal series of distinct rhomboids, margined with whitish and with the lateral angles acute much as in *C. atrox* or *C. adamantea* ; the longitudinal angles sometimes perfect, at others truncate or emarginate. Nineteen brown half rings posteriorly narrow, and separated by wider light intervals than in *C. lucifer*. Rings on the tail narrow, irregular, and quite black.

This species so closely resembles *C. lucifer* that a description of it must be comparative to some extent. The head is longer and narrower posteriorly than in *C. lucifer*, and the nose is much more depressed, the rostral being triangular and as wide as high, while in *C. lucifer* it is a third higher than than wide. There are two small sub-triangular or sub-circular frontals in contact, and behind these is a row of four scales, the outer and largest one lying directly over the nostril ; posterior to these is a third row of five or six scales, connecting the anterior extremities of the superciliaries, the external scale of which row is a little in advance of the rest ; behind this third row two very large scales connect the superciliaries, behind which the crown is covered with plates much larger than in *C. lucifer*. The space between the superciliaries is narrower than in *C. lucifer*. The rattle is more slender than in any other species excepting *C. cerastes*.

The markings on the body of this species are much as in *C. atrox*, and quite unlike those of *C. lucifer*. The ground color is light yellowish or brownish ash ; on the middle third of the body there is a dorsal series of rhomboidal blotches more or less truncated before and behind ; anteriorly they become elongated longitudinally, and not only truncated but sometimes emarginated on the longitudinal angles, while the lateral angles are rounded, leaving the blotches sub-circular. Posteriorly the dorsal blotches continue to have the lateral angles acute and perfect, till they become confluent with a lateral series, and form nineteen half rings, six of which are on the tail. In the middle third of the body

the dorsal blotches are included in 11 or 12 dorsal rows and are 4 to 4½ scales in longitudinal extent ; anteriorly they become longer longitudinally, and only 9 to 10 scales in transverse diameter. The dorsal blotches are light brown, bordered for the width of one scale with darker.

They are separated along the back by a line of the ground color 1 ½ to 2 scales in width, and immediately bordered by a narrow line lighter than the ground color, as in *C. confluentus*, *atrox* and *adamanteus*, this line being about a half scale in width. Posteriorly the light intervals between the rings widen to 3 or 3 ½ scales, while the rings themselves become much narrower, being only 2 to 3 scales wide. On the middle third of the body below, and opposite to the dorsal series is another row of small rhomboidal or sometimes triangular brown blotches on each side ; they involve 4 to 6 scales and extend from the second to the fifth lateral row of scales, and are bordered by light lines like the dorsal series, from which they are separated by a single scale.

Indications are seen of another series of small blotches resting directly upon the abdominal scutellae, alternating with and a little lower than the first lateral series. The abdomen is whitish yellow without distinct blotches. A light line from posterior angle of superciliary and orbit to angle of jaw above labials, and another from before the eye to labials. The markings of the head of this species seem to be very nearly the same as in *C. lucifer*, there is, however, indication of a light border to the external edge of the superciliary, and the rostral and entire space in front of the nostril and pit as well as a little posterior to these, is as dark as the crown, while in *C. lucifer* they are distinctly lighter.

Though this species so closely resembles *C. lucifer*, it will be distinguished by the dorsal rhomboids with perfect lateral angles, by the narrower and more irregular rings posteriorly, by the lighter colors generally, by the slender rattle, and by the depressed nose with the difference in the frontals, and the larger, natter, and smoother scales behind these. From *C. atrox* it will at once be distinguished by the very different markings of the head. It differs from *C. tigris* in having the head wider behind and the muzzle narrower, position of the frontals, narrower dorsal scales, and number of rows, larger dorsal blotches, etc.