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TWO NEW CROTALINE SNAKES FROM WESTERN MEXICO

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Crotalus stejnegeri, sp. nov.

Diagnosis.—A small *Crotalus* with a long slender tail, a very small rattle and with the first pair of lower labials long and produced backwards broadly in contact behind the symphysial.

Range.—West coast of Mexico in Sinaloa and western Durango.

Type.—United States National Museum, No. 46,486. Plumosas, Sinaloa, Mexico; July 19, 1897. Nelson and Goldman collectors.

Description of type specimen.—Scales in 27 rows, the first smooth, the rest keeled. Ventrals 176, anal entire, caudals 44 undivided. Rattle very small, seven rings and button measuring 12 mm. long and four mm. wide. Upper surface of snout with one large pair of internasals and a row of four prefrontals, the two outside ones in contact with internasal and supraocular —canthus rostralis distinct. Supraocular shields narrower than space between them, smooth—7-9 scales between supraoculars, and 10-13 scales in contact with them. Two scales between eye and nasal. Eye separated from labials by three series of scales. Rostral in contact with nasal. Supralabials 14 L, 15 R; lower labials 16, the first pair produced backwards in contact with each other behind the symphysial and with the third lower labial, thus cutting the second lower labial from the chin shields. Color grayish-brown; a series of 40 darker brown, black-edged dorsal rhombs (the first of which is split on the neck) three scales long and on seven scale rows. Alternating with these on the ninth scale row a dark spot covering about one scale. In the same transverse plane as the dorsal rhombs dark spots covering about one scale in each of the third, fourth and fifth rows. Alternating with these a dark spot on a scale of the first row and the tip of the preceding

gastrostege. Belly grayish marbled with black. Tail dull brown with indistinct dark cross-bands. Head flecked above with black, a darker brown blackedged band from beneath eye to angle of jaw. Lower half of upper labials white. Throat white, a dark spot below angle of jaw and tip of lower jaw grayish.

Variation.—A smaller specimen with a rattle consisting of button alone—United States National Museum, No. 46,460, with the same data, shows few minor variations. On one side four series of scales separate eye from labials. The second lower labial is narrowly in contact with the chin shield, thus separating the first labial from the third. The scale counts for this specimen are V 174, C 41, Sc 27, L 14/13-14. Same pattern as type. Forty-four dorsal rhombs, two elongated black spots on occiput, a dark spot which is partly on the posterior end of the supraocular and a similar spot partly on the anterior end of the same scale.

Dimensions.—Type No. 46,486. Total length, 590 mm.; tail except rattle 77 mm. No. 46,460, total length, 284 mm., tail except rattle, 33 mm.

Remarks.—This snake scarcely needs comparison with any described form. The subcaudals are more in number than in any of the described species. The shape of the tail and the minuteness of the rattle are characters which scarcely stand out on paper but which are very striking in the specimens. The peculiar shape of the first lower labial is unique, also. In pattern *stejnegeri* is remotely similar to the snakes of the *triseriatus-pricei* group, but even here the relationship is not close.

Boulenger (Cat. Snakes British Museum III, p. 580) records a specimen of *C. tigris* from Ventanas, Durango, Mexico, on the western slope of the Sierra Madre about 15 miles from the Sinaloa border and undoubtedly in the same faunal zone as Plumosas. This snake was Boulenger's only specimen of *tigris*. It was small (380 mm.) and has the following scale count: V 181, C 46, Sc 25. I strongly suspect that it is the present species. The caudal count is far too high for *tigris*. Unfortunately it is impossible to determine how much of the description in the Catalogue of Snakes is drawn from this specimen and how much from literature. Still a comparison with the description above shows many points of resemblance and a few of discord other than the two less scale rows and the slight ventral and caudal variations. Also the following statements are not in accord with the state of affairs in *tigris*. "Snout with distinct canthus," "a large scale on each side between the internasal and the supraocular," "three series of scales between the eyes and the labials," "dark-edged spots."