

Notes on Some Nicaraguan Reptiles

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ABSTRACT — Six species of reptiles are reported for the first time from Nicaragua: *Lepidoblepharis xanthostigma* (Noble), *Polychrus gutturosus* Berthold, *Diploglossus monotropis* (Kuhl), *Coniophanes bipunctatus* (Günther) and *Tropidodipsas sartorii annulatus* (Peters). Additional specimens of *Enyaliosaurus quinquecarinatus* Gray, *Laemanctus longipes deborrei* Boulenger, *Dryadophis dorsalis* (Bocourt) and *Lachesis muta stenophrys* Cope are reported.

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INTRODUCTION

It has become almost traditional for herpetologists to remark that the herpetofauna of Nicaragua (together with that of Honduras) is the least known of those of Middle America. Campbell and Howell (1965: 130) presented a brief summary of the pertinent herpetological literature for Nicaragua; I will present a more detailed survey in a later paper.

Two articles, whose titles seem to indicate that their contents refer to Nicaraguan amphibians and reptiles, are based on Panamanian specimens. The first one (Cope, 1874) was pointed out by Campbell and Howell (1965); an additional one (Cope, 1875b) records specimens from localities that clearly indicate their Panamanian origin.

My research on Nicaraguan "cold blooded" vertebrates has led to the amassing of collections containing many noteworthy specimens, a portion of which are reported herein. Six of the 9 species included here have not been previously recorded from Nicaragua. With a few exceptions, all the specimens included in this report are in my personal collection (JV), but they will ultimately be deposited in museums, as in the past.

ACCOUNTS OF SPECIES

Lepidoblepharis xanthostigma (Noble). Río San Juan: vicinity of El Castillo (20 Jan., 1965), JV 66292-3 (Fig. 1).—The specimens were found under the moist bark and among some rocks at the base of the same tree. Other individuals, presumably of the same species, were observed but not collected among dead leaves on the forest floor. A well developed egg is present in JV 66292.

This species has not been previously recorded north of Costa Rica; it is likely that its distribution extends at least as far north as Bluefields, Nicaragua.

Enyaliosaurus quinquecarinatus Gray. Jinotega: Tierra Caliente, JV 68044.—The specimen, an adult male collected by Henry Chavarría, represents an isolated population additional to those reported by Villa and Scott (1967: 474) from Nicaragua (Fig. 1). Due to the persecution of "guerrilleros" in northern Nicaragua the Tierra Caliente area has been off-limits for some time, and I could not visit this locality; Chavarría informs me it resembles the situation described by Villa and Scott (1967), *Enyaliosaurus* being common on rocks, trees and stumps in a small area where it is hunted for its flesh and eggs in March and April.

Laemanctus longipes deborrei Boulenger. Jinotega: vicinity of Jinotega, JV 68043 (Fig. 1).—An adult female, in poor condition, collected by Chavarría; it has a complete gular fold and 45

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