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ADDITIONS TO THE HERPETOFAUNA OF BELIZE (BRITISH HONDURAS)

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ADDITIONS TO THE HERPETOFAUNA OF BELIZE
(BRITISH HONDURAS)

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Although the herpetofauna of Belize (formerly British Honduras) is well known, this report adds five additional taxa. Unless otherwise stated, the specimens were collected by the senior author and, with the exception of the *Clelia* and the *Agkistrodon* (which remain in the private collection of Hoervers), have been deposited in the Milwaukee Public Museum (MPM). See Figure 1 for the location of places mentioned in the text.

Triprion petasatus (Cope)

Two specimens of this casque-headed hyliid were collected at Otro Benque near Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District. One, collected on 21 May 1969, has been lost and the other, collected on 18 June 1971, is MPM 6733. Both were clinging to the walls of houses at night in the beginning of the rainy season. The presence of this frog in northern Belize is no surprise as it is found in adjacent areas of Mexico and Guatemala (Duellman, 1970).

Amastridium veliferum (Cope)

McCoy (1970) reported the first specimen of this snake from Belize, but because of its rarity, we feel it is worthwhile to briefly describe the second specimen. It is a male, MPM 6734, and was collected on 15 November 1968 at Medina Bank on the Southern Highway in Toledo District. It was actively prowling inside of an empty hut at 1300 hrs when caught. It made no attempt to bite when grasped. It corresponds well with the description given by Wilson and Meyer (1969) including dorsal scales 17-17; ventrals 160; subcaudals 89; SVL 340 mm, tail 134 mm.

Clelia scytalina (Cope)

A female, Hoervers' No. AF 1000, was collected 18 October 1969 on a bank of the New River near Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District at night. The scalation is as follows: 1-1 preoculars; 2-2 postoculars; supralabials 7-7 with 3-4/3-4 entering orbit; temporals 2 + 3 - 2 + 3; loreal present; scale rows 19-17-17; ventrals 214; subcaudals 69 with part of tail missing. Color in life was shiny blue-black dorsally and off-white ventrally. A juvenile *C. scytalina* from the same locality was examined and had the same scalation as AF 1000. Coloration was pale red dorsally with a black spot on each scale, tip of the snout black followed by a broad yellow band starting just behind the eyes and covering the parietals, then followed by a black band that merged into the red dorsal color; ventrals ivory.

Stuart (1963) described the range of *C. scytalina* as "poorly understood" and "extremely disjunct". This is borne out by our specimen. Although known from the Pacific versant in Guatemala, it has been found only in Veracruz and Tabasco, Mexico, on the Atlantic side. Its presence in northern Belize and absence in Campeche, Quintana Roo, and northern Guatemala is puzzling.

Coluber constrictor stejnegerianus (Cope)

Two specimens, a male (MPM 6735) and a female (MPM 6736), were taken on 5 April 1969 and 10 April 1971, respectively, in the Mountain Pine Ridge, just south of Augustine, Cayo District. The male has 2-2 preoculars; 2-2 postoculars; 8-8 supralabials with 4 and 5 entering the orbit; 8-8 infralabials; 2-2 temporals; scale rows 17-15-15; ventrals 153; subcaudals 94; SVL (preserved) 473 mm, tail length 190 mm. The coloration in life was grey-brown dorsally, flanks greenish and yellowish-green ventrally. The female has similar coloration and scalation, but with 150 ventrals and 81 subcaudals; SVL (preserved) is 455 mm and tail length is 175 mm. She has two oviducal eggs. The scalation of these two specimens fits well the description of *C. c. stejnegerianus* given by Wilson (1966). *Coluber c. stejnegerianus* is known from northern Guatemala.

Leptophis modestus (Günther)

Two males (MPM 6737-6738) of this recently "rediscovered" (Hoyt, 1964) snake were taken on 15 October 1969 and one female (MPM 6739) on 20 August 1972. All three were caught on Cay Bokel, the southernmost island of the Turneffe group about 25-30 mi from the mainland. Scallation is as follows: preoculars 1-1; postoculars 2-2; 8-7, 8-8, 8-8 supralabials; infralabials 10-10, 10-10, 9-9; temporals 1 + 2; the loreal is 1.5 times as long as high; ventrals 182, 182, 183; subcaudals in MPM 6738, the only one with a complete tail, 177; SVL 812 mm, 798 mm, 468 mm; tail length of MPM 6738 is 510 mm. All fit the description of *L. modestus* given by Hoyt (1964). Coloration in life was bright green dorsally and yellowish ventrally; there was a faint indication of a dark stripe from the tip of the snout to the temporal region.

According to local fishermen, this snake is found on most of the Turneffe Islands. It has been observed in mangroves and between ferns and dead trees actively pursuing *Anolis sagrei* on the beaches of Cay Bokel. It is possible that *L. modestus* has been forced to change its food habits due to the absence of amphibians on these islands. It appears to be becoming scarce on Cay Bokel, and this may be a result of increased tourism and the resulting habitat destruction.

All previous specimens of *L. modestus* have been taken at altitudes of up to 2200 m. Ours are the first from sea level. How *L. modestus* got to Cay Bokel is unknown. There is no evidence that it occurs on any cays nearer the coast or on Glover's Reef.

Agkistrodon bilineatus (Günther)

Although Schmidt (1941) listed *A. bilineatus* as a member of the Belize herpetofauna on the basis of two specimens, one from "Belize" and another from "British Honduras", the occurrence of this pit-viper in Belize has been questioned by Allen and Neill (1959), Gloyd (1972), and Neill (1965). Two specimens were taken in a wet area near Santa Cruz, about 9 mi S of Corozal Town, Corozal District, by cane cutters and kindly forwarded to the senior author by L. W. Sharp. One (Hoovers' No. AE 890), a

male, was taken on 10 December 1968. It has 23-23-19 scale rows; 141 ventrals; and 1-1 + 25 + 35-35 (total 61) subcaudals. The other (Hoevers' No. 1112), a female, was collected 15 March 1972 and had 23-23-19 scale rows; 135 ventrals; and 12 + 30-30 + 4 (total 46) subcaudals. It had 12 oviducal eggs and the stomach contained a rodent.

Unfortunately, both specimens were partially destroyed in an attempt to send them to the U. S. and only their skeletons remain. Thus, it is impossible to assign them to subspecies, although they most likely would fall into Gloyd's recently (1972) described *A. b. russeolus*. Efforts are in progress to obtain additional Belize specimens of *A. bilineatus*.

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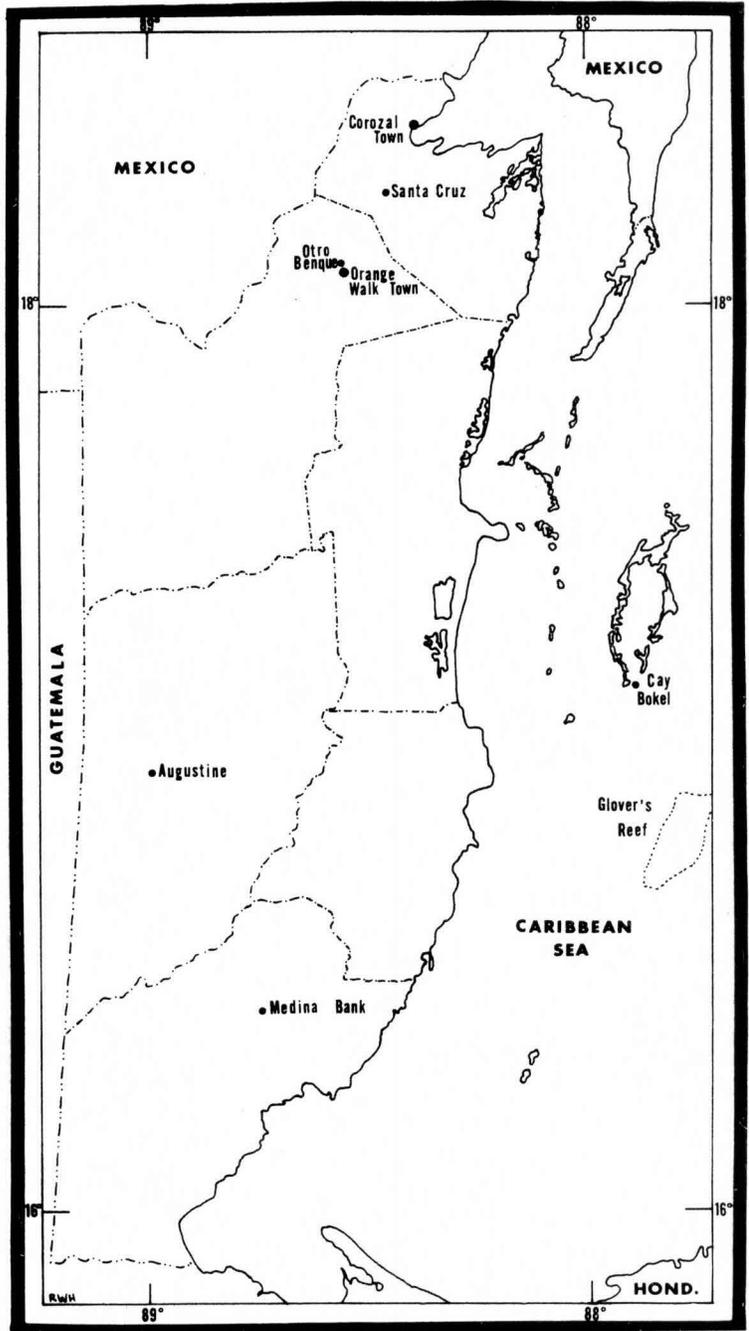


Fig. 1. Map of Belize showing localities mentioned in the text.

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ERRATUM

Hoevers, L.G. and R.W. Henderson. 1974. Additions to the herpetofauna of Belize (British Honduras). Milwaukee Public Mus. Contrib. Biol. Geol. 2:1-6.

Page 1: Amastridium veliferum (Cope) should read Amastridium veliferum Cope.

Page 2: Coluber constrictor stejnegerianus (Cope) should read Coluber constrictor oaxaca (Jan).