

A New *Agkistrodon* from Mexico

By BENJAMIN SHREVE

IN the course of identifying W. W. Brown's interesting latest collection I came across the surprising new species described below.

Agkistrodon browni, sp. nov.

TYPE.—Museum of Comparative Zoology, No. 42678, a male, from Omilteme, Guerrero, Mexico, collected by W. W. Brown in 1936.

PARATYPE.—M.C.Z. No. 42679, with same data and history as the type.

DIAGNOSIS.—This new species does not seem to be closely related to any member of the genus, but seems most similar to the Asiatic *Agkistrodon hypnale*, from which it differs in shape of head, in the arrangement of the head scales, mostly single caudals, and in coloration. Although apparently less similar, *browni* is very likely more closely related to *Agkistrodon bilineatus* from which it differs in shape of head, arrangement of head scales, in a lower number of scale rows, a lower number of caudals, and in coloration.

DESCRIPTION.—Snout rounded, not turned up, flat above, with moderately sharp canthus; rostral broader than deep; internasals broken up into small scales, six in the type, four in the paratype; a pair of prefrontals; a small azygous scale between the prefrontals and frontal (this azygous scale is absent in paratype); frontal as long as its distance from the end of the snout, longer than, or shorter than the parietals (the left parietal, due to fusion with another scale, is longer than the frontal in the type; otherwise the frontal is longer than the parietals); parietals not in contact with each other; upper preocular separated from the posterior nasal by a loreal; two postoculars and one or two suboculars separating the eye from the labials (only on the left side of the type there is one subocular, the other being lost by fusion with the lower postocular); eight upper labials, none forming the anterior border of the loreal pit; scales more or less strongly keeled in 19 or 18 rows at midbody (18 or 17 in paratype; in both examples reduction comes at or near midbody); ventrals 134 (141 in paratype); anal entire; caudals 31 (27 in paratype) mostly single (first, thirtieth, and thirty-first divided in the type; first, eighteenth, and twenty-fourth to twenty-seventh in the paratype).

COLORATION IN ALCOHOL.—Above, brown (gray where outer epidermis has peeled off), with many black, or dark brown, narrow, short markings, light edged anteriorly and often, on the mid dorsal line, paired to form chevrons, or else alternate; on the posterior part of tail obscure light bands, black, or dark brown edged; below, black or dark gray, spotted and washed with whitish; lower labials and underside of lower jaw prominently spotted with white; posterior part of tail whitish brown, this coloration extending on to the upper side to some extent (only on under side of tail in paratype).

MEASUREMENTS.—The type measures 445 mm. in total length, tail 55 mm.; the paratype 359 mm., tail 36 mm.

This surprising novelty is named for W. W. Brown, its collector.

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