



A third new species of snake of the genus *Omoadiphas* (Reptilia, Squamata, Colubridae, Dipsadinae) from Honduras

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Abstract

A new species of *Omoadiphas* is described from the Sierra de Agalta, Olancho, Honduras. Three species are now known in the genus. The new species differs from *O. aurula* in number of subcaudal, supralabial, infralabial, and postocular scales, in color and pattern, and in having the posterior nasal scale in contact with the prefrontal scale. It differs from *O. texiguatensis* (known only from a subadult female) in having fewer subcaudals and the dark brown dorsolateral stripe involving all of scale rows two and three on each side of the body.

Key words: *Omoadiphas*, *Omoadiphas cannula* sp. nov., Honduras

Resumen

Se describe una nueva especie de *Omoadiphas* de la Sierra de Agalta en el este de Honduras. Se conocen tres especies para el género. La nueva especie difiere de *O. aurula* en el número de escamas subcaudales (47 en el macho y 31 en la hembra en la especie nueva contra 38–39 en machos y 24–35 en hembras de *O. aurula*), supralabiales (6 contra 7), infralabiales (7 contra 8) y postoculares (1 contra 2), en color (café oscuro contra amarillo claro) y patrón (sin franja oscura en hilera vertebral contra franja vertebral presente) y en que tiene la escama nasal posterior en contacto con la escama prefrontal (contra escama nasal posterior separada de la escama prefrontal por la escama loreal). También, la nueva especie difiere de la otra especie de *Omoadiphas*, *O. texiguatensis*, en número de subcaudales (31 en la hembra contra 41) y la franja oscura dorsolateral en las hileras de escamas dos y tres en cada lado del cuerpo (contra la franja oscura solamente en hilera tres).

Introduction

The Sierra de Agalta of east-central Honduras remains poorly known herpetologically, despite containing the largest remaining pristine forest in Honduras outside of the Mosquitia region further eastward. Castañeda (2006) reported 45 species of lizards and snakes (Order Squamata) from the Agalta, none of which are endemic to the Agalta, or even Honduras. The purpose of this report is to describe a new species of snake from the Agalta that appears to be endemic to that mountain range.

Methods

We follow the formats of the descriptions in Köhler *et al.* (2001) and McCranie & Castañeda (2004) in describing this new taxon. Dowling's (1951) method was used in counting ventral scales. Head and scale measurements were made to the nearest 0.1 mm with dial calipers held under a dissecting microscope. Snout-vent length and tail length measurements were made to the nearest mm alongside a ruler. Measurements are