



A new species of *Sibon* (Squamata: Colubridae) from the mountains of eastern Guatemala

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Abstract

A new species of snake of the genus *Sibon* (Squamata: Colubridae) is described from La Montaña de las Granadillas, part of the Sierra del Merendón in eastern Guatemala. *Sibon merendonensis* is part of the *S. annulatus* group, and differs from other members of the group in its scale row formula, head scalation and body size. The new species is known only from the holotype and was collected from an isolated area of cloud forest near Zacapa, Department of Zacapa, Guatemala.

Key words: *Sibon merendonensis* sp. nov., Central America, *Sibon annulatus* species group

Resumen

Se describe una especie nueva del género *Sibon* (Squamata: Colubridae) de La Montaña de las Granadillas, parte de la Sierra del Merendón en el oriente de Guatemala. *Sibon merendonensis* es parte del grupo-de-especies *Sibon annulatus*, y se distingue de todos los otros miembros del grupo por su fórmula de escamas dorsales, las escamas de la cabeza, y el tamaño de su cuerpo. La especie nueva se conoce solamente del holotipo, colectado en un bosque nuboso aislado cerca de Zacapa, departamento de Zacapa, Guatemala.

Introduction

The colubrid snake genus *Sibon* includes 12 Central American species (Köhler 2008; Köhler *et al.* 2010), 5 of which are known to occur in Guatemala: *S. anthracops* (Cope), *S. carri* (Shreve), *S. dimidiatus* (Günther), *S. nebulatus* (Linnaeus) and *S. sanniolus* (Cope) (Campbell 2001). The *S. annulatus* group consists of nine species, three of which (*S. anthracops*, *S. dimidiatus*, *S. sanniolus*) are found in Guatemala. The species in this group are united by having the enlarged penultimate supralabial separated from the eye by the lower postocular and (except in two species) by having a dorsal pattern of dark bands that extends onto or across the venter (Kofron 1990; Savage 2002). *Sibon annulatus* (Günther) is found from the Atlantic versant of Honduras to the Darién region of Panama (Savage 2002). *Sibon anthracops* occurs from the Jalapan and Zacapan areas of Guatemala to north-central Costa Rica (Campbell 2001). *Sibon dimidiatus* is found from Oaxaca and Veracruz, Mexico through Central America to southern Costa Rica (Savage 2002). *Sibon lamari* (Solórzano) occurs in northeastern Costa Rica (Solórzano 2002), *Sibon linearis* (Pérez-Higareda, López-Luna & Smith) is restricted to the Los Tuxtlas region of Veracruz, Mexico (Pérez-Higareda *et al.* 2002), and both *S. manzanaresi* (McCranie) and *S. miskitus* (McCranie) are known only from lowland primary rain forest in the Montañas de Colón, departamento de Gracias a Dios, Honduras (McCranie 2006; 2007). *Sibon sanniolus* is found in the Petén area of Guatemala, Belize, and the Yucatán Peninsula of Mexico