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Description of a second specimen of *Leptotyphlops parkeri* (Squamata: Leptotyphlopidae), with comments on its generic placement

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All but two of the 121 species of the snake family Leptotyphlopidae are characterized by possessing 14 scale rows around the body throughout most of its length. The exceptions, both possessing 16 scale rows, are *Rhinoleptus koniagui* (Villiers) of the Guinean region, and *Leptotyphlops parkeri* Broadley, known from one specimen from Ethiopia. According to Adalsteinsson *et al.* (2009), some leptotyphlopids from the West Indies may possess 16 scale rows, but their statement was based on an unpublished work (Wallach, 1998) and an original source for the scale row count could not be found (B. Hedges, V. Wallach, pers. comm.). During a check of snake identifications at the Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science (LSUMZ), I encountered a specimen of *Leptotyphlops* from Kenya that had 16 scale rows, and closely resembled *L. parkeri* in arrangement of the cephalic scales (Fig. 1). Collection data for LSUMZ 53772 are: Tsavo National Park, [most probably from Kilaguni Lodge,] Coast Province, Kenya, collected December 1972 by Harold A. Dundee. The habitat at Kilaguni Lodge is referred to *Acacia–Commiphora* deciduous bushland and thicket (R. Drewes, pers. comm.). The snake was collected on the ground at night (H.A. Dundee, pers. comm.).



FIGURE 1. *Leptotyphlops parkeri*, LSUMZ 53772: dorsal view.

The LSUMZ specimen is described as follows: sex not determined; snout–vent length 104 mm; total length 113 mm; midbody diameter 2.4 mm; head diameter 2.2 mm; total length/tail length 12.6; total length/midbody diameter 47.1; total transverse scale rows from postfrontal to tail tip 279; subcaudals 30; body scale rows 16; mid-tail scale rows 14; body cylindrical throughout its length, nearly uniform in diameter; tail ends in blunt cone, lacking a spine on the tip; lateral profile of snout rounded with slight downward lobe; dorsal profile of snout bluntly rounded; eye and pupil evident, located at upper anterior margin of ocular shield; rostral shield broad, 63% of maximum head diameter, with preoral groove on ventral surface; frontal and postfrontal semicircular, undifferentiated from middorsal scale row; supraoculars