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Reptilia: Squamata (snakes)

A new record for *Leptophis cupreus* (Cope, 1868) (Squamata: Colubridae) for Panama and Mesoamerica

Cope (1868) described *Leptophis cupreus* (as *Thrasops cupreus*) on the basis of a female holotype (ANSP 5202) from “River Napo and Maranon, Ecuador,” interpreted as equivalent to “Napo/Orellana Prov., NE Ecuador, or Loreto Dept., NE Peru” by Wallach et al. (2014). Curiously, however, this taxon was not mentioned in the list of names proposed for the genus *Thalerophis* (= *Leptophis*) provided by Oliver (1948) in his generic revision (see Albuquerque and McDiarmid, 2010). Thus, Peters and Orcés-V. (1960) resurrected this taxon from obscurity and established it as a valid species under the name *Leptophis cupreus*. Interestingly, these authors indicated that the holotype of *Thrasops cupreus* was lost, inasmuch as it could not be located within the collections of the Smithsonian Institution (i.e., the National Museum of Natural History). Originally catalogued as USNM 6666, the holotype was located by Malnate (1971) in the collection of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, where it is catalogued as ASNP 5202 (see Albuquerque and McDiarmid, 2010). The resurrection of this taxon allowed it to be included in Peters (1960), in which it was stated to range on the “lower Amazonian slopes in Ecuador.”

Leptophis cupreus remained poorly known until relatively recently, when Albuquerque and McDiarmid (2010) redescribed the species on the basis of 18 specimens, including the holotype, upholding its resurrection by Peters and Orcés-V. (1960). Nevertheless, Albuquerque and McDiarmid (2010) still characterized this species in the title of their paper as “a rare South American colubrine snake.” These authors (p. 380) indicated *L. cupreus* to be “known from the southwestern Guayana Highlands of Venezuela and adjacent Colombia (Sierra de La Macarena), the Amazonian lowlands of Ecuador, Colombia, and Peru, and from two localities on the Pacific versant of the Andes in Colombia and Ecuador.” The locality on “the Pacific versant of the Andes in Colombia” is that for LACM 45444, i.e., the “divide between Atrato and San Juan drainages near Tado [= Tadó]; trail between right bank of San Juan, opposite Tado [= Tadó] and I. Bordo [= Ibordo] in Atrato drainage,” in the department of Chocó. This locality, the northwesternmost for *L. cupreus*, is evident in the map in Albuquerque and McDiarmid (2010: fig. 5), and lies somewhere along the trail crossing the continental divide between Tadó, lying alongside the Río San Juan on the Pacific versant, and Ibordo in the drainage of the Río Atrato on the Atlantic (Caribbean) versant. The trail apparently extends from the town of Tadó at an elevation of about 75 m to that of Ibordo at approximately 100 m. This locality seems to be at the lower end of the elevational range for this species, which, according to Albuquerque and McDiarmid (2010), extends upward to some point between 1,820 and 1,880 m on Cerro de la Neblina near the southern border of Venezuela.

Fieldwork undertaken by AB documents the presence of *Leptophis cupreus* in Panama and in Mesoamerica. The specimen (MHCH 3218 [field collecting number AB 1386]; Fig. 1) came from 2 km NW of Cocalito (7°18'22.08"N, 77°59'1.31"W; WGS 84; elev. 200 m), Jaqué, Provincia de Darién, Panama; it was collected on 22 May 2016 at 1320 h by Abel Batista. This record extends the distribution of this species ca. 283 km to the NW from the divide between the Atrato and San Juan drainages near Tado (5°18'N, 76°33'W; WGS 84), Chocó, Colombia (Albuquerque and McDiarmid, 2010). The specimen is a male preserved with its hemipenis everted. The specimen was found in a Tropical and Subtropical Moist Broadleaf Forest, within the Choco-Darién moist forest ecoregion of the world (WWF, 2017); it was found in a pristine forest beside a small stream, where it was lying on a rock.



Fig. 1. An adult *Leptophis cupreus* from 2 km NW of Cocalito, Jaqué, Provincia de Darién, Panama.

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First record of *Tantilla moesta* (Squamata: Colubridae) from the state of Campeche, Mexico

The genus *Tantilla* ranks second in the number of snake species in the Western Hemisphere, with 63 species currently described (Wilson and Mata-Silva, 2015; Batista et al., 2016; Koch and Venegas, 2016). The Black-bellied Centipede Snake (*Tantilla moesta*) is one of the 30 species in this genus found in Mexico (Wilson and Mata-Silva, 2014); its distribution is limited to low elevations of the Yucatan Peninsula in the Mexican states of Yucatán and Quintana Roo, and the northern portion of the Guatemalan department of El Petén (Wilson, 1982; Lee, 1996, 2000; Köhler, 2008; Wilson and Mata-Silva, 2015). Lee (1996) suggested that this species likely occurs in Belize and in the Mexican state of Campeche, but to date no published records are available to confirm its presence in these areas. Herein, we present the first record of *T. moesta* from the state of Campeche.

During a herpetofaunal survey, on 11 August 2016 at ca. 2200 h, an adult individual *T. moesta* (Fig.1) was found at “Km 20,” Reserva de la Biósfera Calakmul, Municipio de Calakmul, Campeche, Mexico (18°21'59.61"N, 89°53'8.23"W; WGS 84; elev. 224 m). The snake was found in leaf litter, in undisturbed semi-evergreen tropical forest. A photograph of the snake is deposited in the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP)'s Biodiversity