

Anomalepis mexicanus Jan (Serpentes, Anomalepididae) in Honduras

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ANOMALEPIS mexicanus Jan is a secretive and rarely collected wormsnake of the family Anomalepididae Taylor. Jan, in Jan & Sordelli (1860) gave 'Mexique' as the locality for his specimen of *A. mexicanus* (Jan, 1857, gave 'Messico' as the locality for his *Anomolepis mexicanus*, a nomen nudum). No subsequent specimens of this species or family have been collected in Mexico, and that locality is considered erroneous (Kofron, 1988; McDiarmid et al., 1999). Kofron (1988), in the most recent review of the species, recorded *A. mexicanus* from Peru, Panama, and Costa Rica.

By sheer coincidence, in 2003 (143 years after the species was first made known to science), two specimens of *Anomalepis mexicanus* were collected by separate workers in two countries to the north of its previous known range. Köhler et al. (2004) reported the first specimen of this species from Nicaragua (collected 19th July 2003). On 10th December 2003, Tomás Manzanares collected the first specimen of this species from Honduras. In addition, I collected a second Honduran specimen of *A. mexicanus* on 18th May 2004. Both were collected near a campsite known as Urus Tingni Kiang (14°54.639'N, 84°40.829'W) in primary rainforest at 160 m elevation in the Mosquitia of northeastern Honduras. This locality lies about 170 km NNE of the Nicaraguan locality reported by Köhler et al. (2004). The two Honduran specimens are discussed below.

The two Honduran specimens (UF 141964–65) have total lengths of 155 and 100 mm, respectively (sexes of both unknown). Pertinent scale counts (those identified by Kofron, 1988, as diagnostic of the species in the genus) are: number of dorsal scales 261–262; scale row formulas 22–22–22 and 24–24–22. These data agree with those of Kofron (1988) in that Central American snakes have fewer dorsal scales than those from Peru, although there is overlap in the respective ranges. The Honduran specimen with 24 scale rows at midbody (UF 141964) is the only specimen of *A. mexicanus*

known from Central America to have 24 scale rows at midbody, although that count has been recorded in at least one specimen from Peru (Kofron, 1988). Colour in life of UF 141965 was recorded as follows: all dorsal and ventral surfaces Chestnut (colour 32 in Smithe, 1975–1981), but internal organs visible through translucent ventral skin; iris black.

The Honduran specimen collected in 2003 was under a log on a bank above a stream and the second specimen was inside a rotten log on a hillside. Both situations were moist from recent heavy rainfall. These specimens also represent the first records of the family Anomalepididae from Honduras.

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