

*CHIRONIUS SCURULUS* (WAGLER) RECORDED FROM VENEZUELA

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Recently Hoge and Nina (:72) considered *Natrix scurula* Wagler as a valid species belonging to the genus *Chironius*, and recorded several specimens from Brazil and Peru.

A specimen in the "Museo de Biología de la Universidad Central de Venezuela" extends the range of this species far Northwards and represents the first record from Venezuela.

*Description:* A specimen without number in the MBUCV; a female, from Rio Paragua between the mouth of Rio Kauni and Raudal Guaiginina, Estado Bolívar, Venezuela, Brewer leg. Jan. 13-1962. Rostral larger than high, visible from above; internasals longer than broad; prefrontals as long as broad, as long as the internasals; preocular well visible from above; frontal longer than broad, much broader anteriorly than posteriorly; supraoculars elongated, broadest behind; nine upper labials the fifth and sixth entering the orbit; one pre and two postoculars; temporals 1 + 2, large; loreal longer than high; nasal divided; ten lower labials, the five pairs in contact with the anterior chin-shields; anterior chin-shields as long as posterior ones (the posterior one abnormally elongated, nearly twice as long as his fellow). Ventrals 158; subcaudals 117/117; dorsals in 10-10-10 longitudinal series, all smooth.

Ground color brownish yellow, with irregularly distributed dark brown to black scales in strong color contrast against ground color. Head dark-brown, nearly black, above. Rostral and nasals light brown; upper labials as dark as upper surface of head, except sixth and seventh which are of a slightly lighter color below. Lower jaw yellowish white. The dark dorsum color invades the ventrals; belly strongly marked with dark, underside of tail mottled with dark brown.

*Distribution:* Peru, Brazil (Amazonian aequatorial forests); Venezuela; from Paragua River (affluent of Orinoco).

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LITTERATURE

Wagler, in Spix — "Serpentum brasiliensium species novae, ou Histoire Naturelle des Espèces Nouvelles de Serpents, recueillies et observées pendant le voyage dans l'intérieur du Brésil dans les années 1817, 1818, 1819, 1820, exécuté par ordre de Sa Majesté le Roi de Bavière" 1-4, 1-75, Pl. I-26. Monachii, 1824.

Hoge, A. R. and Nina, A. C. M. — Serpentes coletadas pelo Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazonia, *Mem. Inst. Butantan*, 30:71-96, 1964.

