

NOTES ON *PSEUSTES DIEPERINCKII* (SCHLEGEL) SERPENTES

A. R. HOGE and S. A. ROMANO

Secção de Herpetologia, Instituto Butantan, São Paulo, Brasil

Historical — *Natrix sulfurea* described by Wagler (1824; 26 pl. IX) from a single specimen collected on the riverside of Rio Japura, Estado de Amazonas, Brazil.

Dipsias Dieperinckii described by Schlegel (1837, 1:163 and 2:282) from a single specimen, collected in Surinam.

Fitzinger (1843: 26-27) erected the genus: *Thamnobius* with *Coluber poecilostoma* Wied as "species typica" and *Pseustes* with *Dipsas dieperinckii* as "species typica".

Duméril, Bibron and Duméril (1854, 7:221-1050) referred erroneously specimens from Surinam as *Spilotes poecilostoma*.

Cope (1862:348) described the genus *Phrynonax* with *Tropidodryas lunulatus* Cope as "species typica".

Boulenger (1894, 2:18) uses Cope's *Phrynonax* and did not mention *Dipsas dieperinckii* in his Catalogue.

Phrynonax Fauchéri described by Mocquard (1903, n.º 5:214) (4) (a single specimen) from Dutch Guyana sended to the Paris Museum by Fauchér.

Amaral (1930 (1929) 4:13), includes *Phrynonax fauchérie* in the synonymy of *Phrynonax sulphureus sulphureus* (Wagler) and in an other paper, 1930 (1929) 4:302, mentions that he considers *dieperinckii* as a probable synonym of *sulphureus*, but that this cannot be proved since the type specimen of *Dieperinckii* was lost.

Brongersma (1937, 20:5-6, fig. a 2b) proves that the type specimen of *Dipsas dieperinckii* still exists in the Leiden Museum under n.º 384 and considers the specimen as belonging to *Phrynonax sulphureus sulphureus* as described by Amaral in his revision (1929:306, fig. 5).

Brongersma in the same paper pointed out that the oldest name for the genus is *Thamnobius* Fitzinger 1843 with *Coluber poecilostoma* Wied = *Phrynonax sulphureus poecilostoma* "aucto", as "species typica" but is preoccupied by *Thamnobius* Schoenherr 1836 (fide Sherborn, Index Animalium, S.2, Pl.26, 1931:6480) and that the next available generic name is *Pseustes* Fitzinger 1843 which has priority over *Phrynonax* Cope 1862.

Hoge (1964, 30:61) identifies a specimen of the Surinam Museum, from River Paloemen, Kamp Jeté-té Tumuc-humac Brazilian-Surinam border, as *Pseustes sulphureus sulphureus* (Wagler), he mentions that the specimen shows some characters of *P. fauchéri*, but that the lack of material does not allow a conclusion about the validity of *fauchéri*.

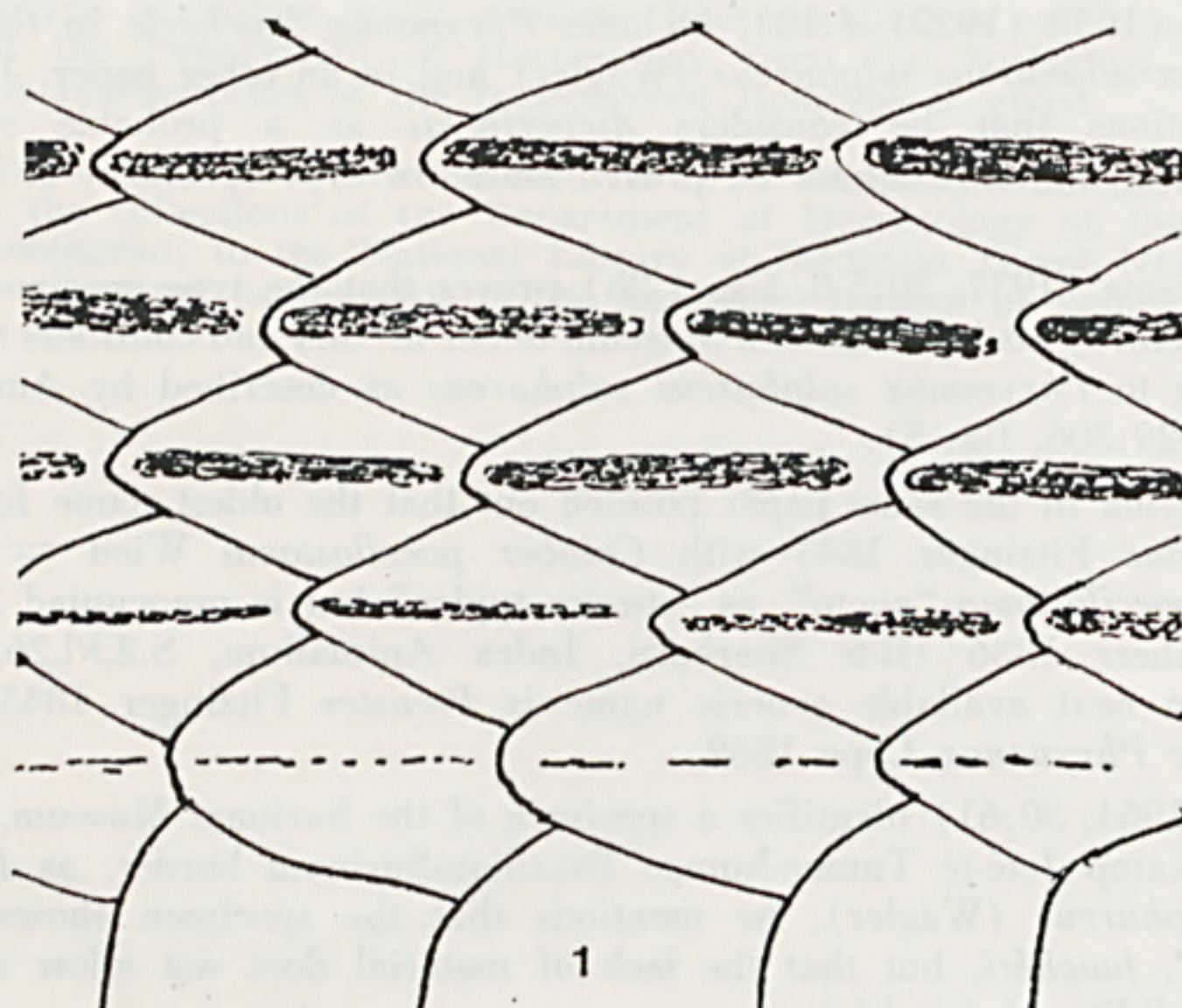
During 1967-1968 we were able to examine several specimens from the Guyanas and compare them with the data already available on *P. sulphureus sulphureus* and now consider *P. dieperinckii* as a valid subspecies of *P. sulphureus* with *fauchéri* as synonym.

Pseustes sulphureus dieperinckii (Schlegel)

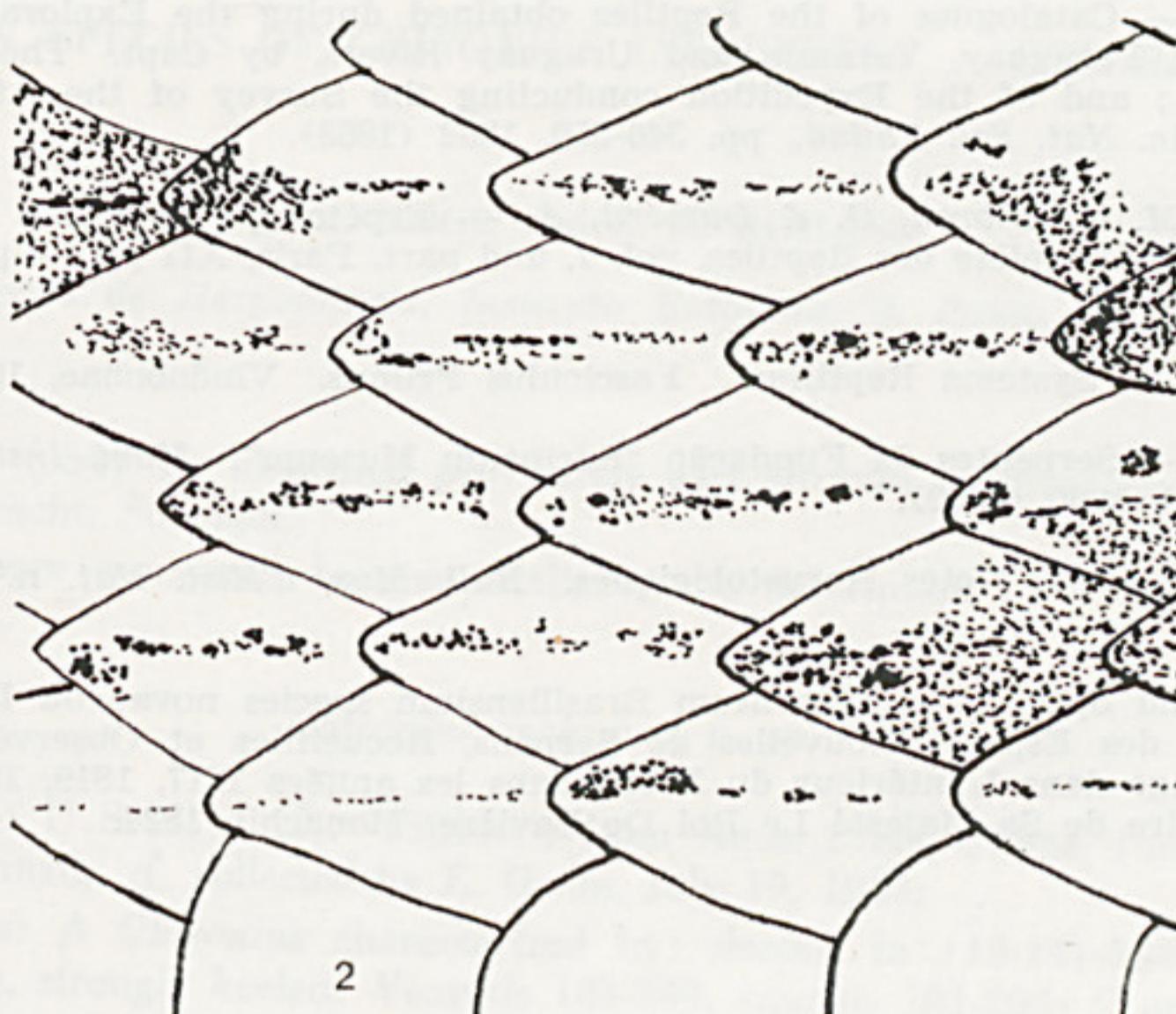
- 1837 — *Dipsas Dieperinckii* Schlegel Phys. Serp. 1:163 and 2:283.
 1843 — *Pseustes...* type species *Dipsas Dieperinckii* Fitzinger. Syst. Rept. (1):27.
 1854 — *Spilotes poecilostoma*: Duméril, Bibron et Duméril ("partim" specimens from Guyana) Erpet. gén. 7:221-223.
 1894 — *Phrynonax sulphureus*; Boulenger (partim B) Cat. Snak. brit. Mus. 2:19.
 1903 — *Phrynonax Fauchéri* nsp. Mocquard, Bull. Mus. Hist. Nat. (5):212 (4).
 1930 — (1929) *Phrynonax sulphureus sulphureus*: Amaral, (partim) (consider *fauchéri*) as a synonym of *P. sulphureus sulphureus* Mem. Inst. But. 4: 13 and 4:306.
 1930 (1929) — (*Dipsas(dieperinckii*: Amaral (considers it a probable synonym of *P. s. sulphureus*) Mem. Inst. But. 4:302.
 1937 — *Dipsas dieperinckii* = *Pseustes sulphureus sulphureus* sensu Amaral 1928; Brongersma, Zool. Med. 20:5, fig. a 2b.
 1964 — *Pseustes sulphureus sulphureus*; Hoge — Mem. Instituto Butantan 30:61.
 Type locality. Surinam.
 Type RNHL n.º 384.

Range: coastal regions of the Guyanas and NE Venezuela.

Diagnosis: closest related to *Pseustes sulphureus sulphureus* (Wagler) but distinguishable from it by: the black borders on upper labials; the keels which, although sometimes darker than ground color, never form distinct longitudinal stripes (Fig. 1-2); dark crossbands present in adults, at least on posterior part of



body; tail black. In juveniles and sometimes in adults the nuchal stripes are in contact with the postocular stripe.



MATERIAL

Pseustes sulphureus dieperinckii: AMNH 8595 Vega Oropouche; AMNH 60753 Kuyuwini river, Brit. Guyana; AMNH 25171 Brit. Guyana; AMNH 60817 Kuyuwini river, Brit Guyana; AMNH 98215 Karlabo, Brit. Guyana; USNM 65575, Caripito, Venezuela. MNHNP., Type of *Fauchèri*, Surinam; SSM. 6 Paloemeu river (final Camp Jeteté, Tummuc Humac, Brazilian-Surinam border line).

Acknowledgments — We are indebted to: Drs. J. Guibé, Alice Grandisson; C. Bogert, J. Peters, Brongersma and Ramon Lancini who allowed us free access to their collections; to the "Conselho Nacional de Pesquisas" which grant permitted us to visit American and European Museums.

RESUMO

Pseustes sulphureus dieperinckii é considerado subespécie válida.

LITTERATURE

Amaral, A. do — Estudos sobre Ophidios Neotrópicos. XVII. Valor sistemático de varias fórmas de Ophidios Neotrópicos. *Mem. Inst. Butantan*, 4:4-68, 1929 (1930).

Amaral, A. do — Estudos sobre Ophidios Neotrópicos. XX. Revisão do gênero *Phrynonax* Cope, 1862. *Mem. Inst. Butantan*, 4:301-320, Fig. 1-6, 1929.

Boulenger, G. A. — Catalogue of the Snakes in the British Museum (Natural History) 3:1-727, + pl., 1894.

Brongersma, L. D. — Herpetological notes. XV. The Type of *Dipsas Dieperinckii* Schlegel, 1837, and the Genus *Pseustes* Ditzinger, 1843. *Zool. Med. Leiden* 20:5-10, fig. a e b.

Cope, E. D. — Catalogues of the Reptiles obtained during the Exploration of the Paraná, Paraguay, Vermejo and Uruguay Rivers, by Capt. Thos. J. Page, U.S.N.; and of the Expedition conducting the Survey of the Atrato River, *Proc. Ac. Nat. Sci. Philad.*, pp. 346-359, 1862 (1863).

Duméril, A. M. C., Bibron, G. & Duméril, A. — Erpétologie Générale ou Histoire Naturelle complète des Reptiles, vol. 7, and part. Paris, XII pp. — pp. 781-1536, 1854.

Fitzinger, L., — Systema Reptilium. Fasciculus Primus. Vindobonae, 106 pp. 1843.

Hoge, A. R. — Serpentes da Fundação "Surinaam Museum". *Mem. Inst. Butantan*, 30:51-64, 1960 (1962).

Mocquard, M. F. — Notes Herpetologiques. *Bull. Mus. d'Hist. Nat.* n° 5, p. 209, 1903.

Wagler, J. and Spix, J. — Serpentum Brasiliensium species novae ou Histoire Naturelle des Espèces Nouvelles de Serpens, Recueillies et Observées Pendant le voyage dans L'Intérieur du Brésil dans les années 1817, 1819, 1820, exécuté par ordre de Sa Majesté Le Roi De Bavière, Monachii, 1824.