

## A NEW SPECIES OF *CHIRONIUS* (SERPENTES — COLUBRIDAE)

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In 1962 (:54) we identified provisorily as *Chironius multiventris* a specimen from Onverwacht, Surinam.

Since more specimens became available the description of a new species is now possible.

### *Chironius cochranae* n. sp. \*

*Holotype*: U.S.N.M. N.º 1581103, from Agua Preta Utinga (near Belem), State Pará, Brazil, ♂ collected by E. Dente, July 19, 1965.

*Diagnosis*: A *Chironius* characterized by: dorsals in (12-14)-12-8 rows the two vertebrals, strongly keeled: Ventrals 181-189, caudals 181-203; 9 upper labials (526) the 4th not or nearly not entering the orbit; the dorsal dark color extending to ventrals and caudals all over the body and in strong color contrast; very large and distinct apical pits; no white, black bordered, vertebral streak; ventrals without black edges except on midline suture between caudals; the light colored cross bands, when present, not bordered with dark, and nearly always ill defined.

*Relationship*: closely allied to *Chironius multiventris* Schmidt 1942 and *Chironius carinatus* (Linnaeus, 1758) but easily distinguished from *C. carinatus* by his higher ventral counts the absence of yellowish dots on paraventral row and different pattern, from *multiventris* by: the absence of vertebral light stripe; absence of black edges on ventrals and caudals, the dark dorsal color invading ventrals and caudals all over the body; the indistinct, never dark edged, light colored crossbands.

Description of *Holotype*: rostral wider than deep, visible from above, internasals as long as wide; prefrontals wider than long, longer than the internasals; frontal (anteriorly) only a little smaller than its length, as long as its distance to the end of snout, nearly in contact with preocular; 9 upper labials, the fifth and sixth largely entering the orbit, the 4th scarcely in contact; nasal divided; loreal longer than deep; one pre and two postoculars; temporals 1 + 2; 10 lower labials, 5 first pairs in contact with anterior chin shields, the 5th and 6th much larger than the other ones; anterior chin shields as long as posterior ones; dorsals (12-13)-12-8 smooth, except the two vertebral rows which are strongly keeled, the keels extending on the two vertebral rows of tail till the 8 subcaudal; very distinct apical pits on the two vertebral rows, the pits always on the outer side of keel; ventrals 3 + 181; Anal 1/1: caudals 180/181.

\* Dedicated to Dr. Doris Cochran curator of Reptiles and Amphibians at the Smithsonian Institution.

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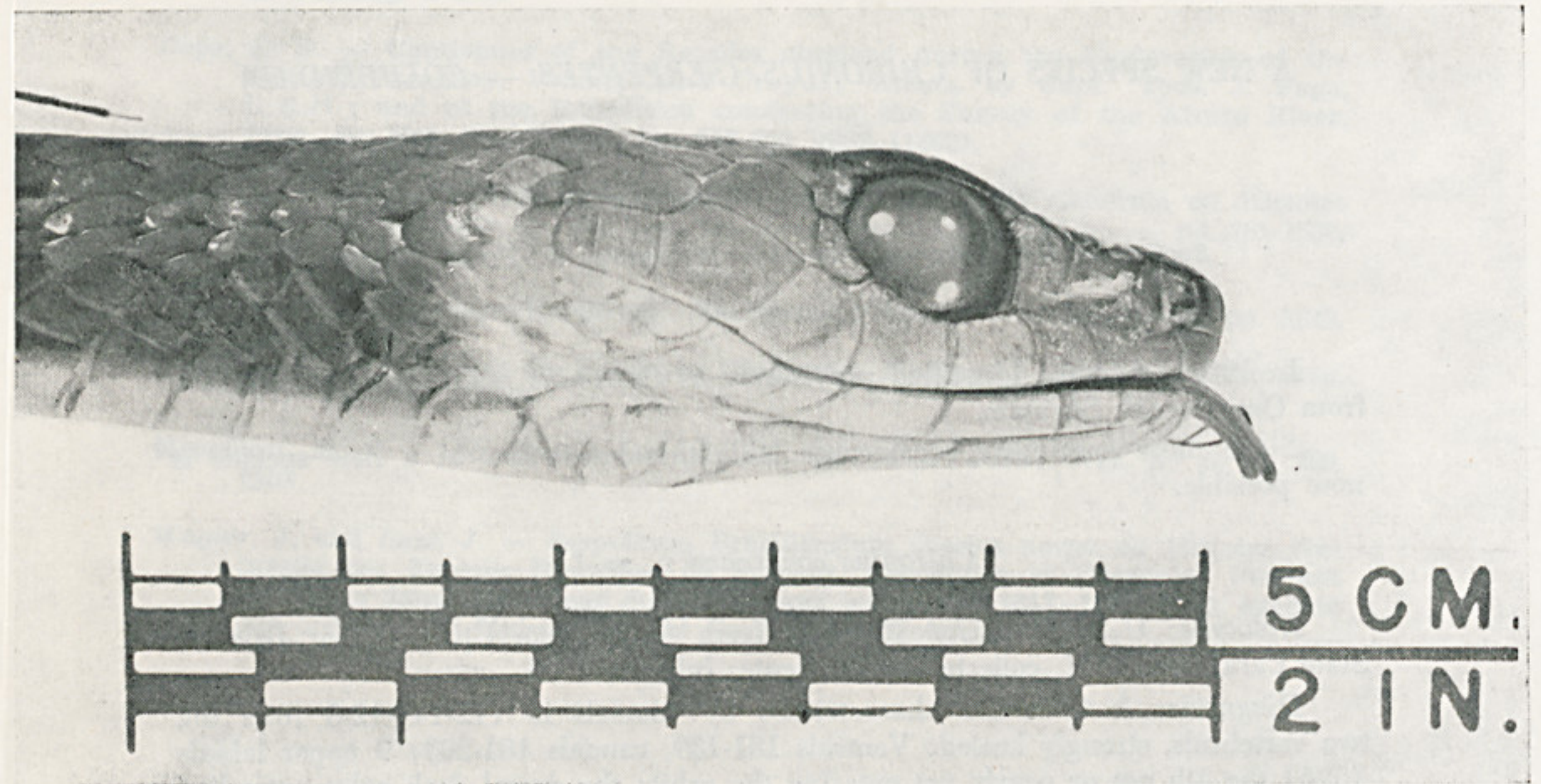


Fig. 1 — *Chironius cochrane* Holotype USNM 158103

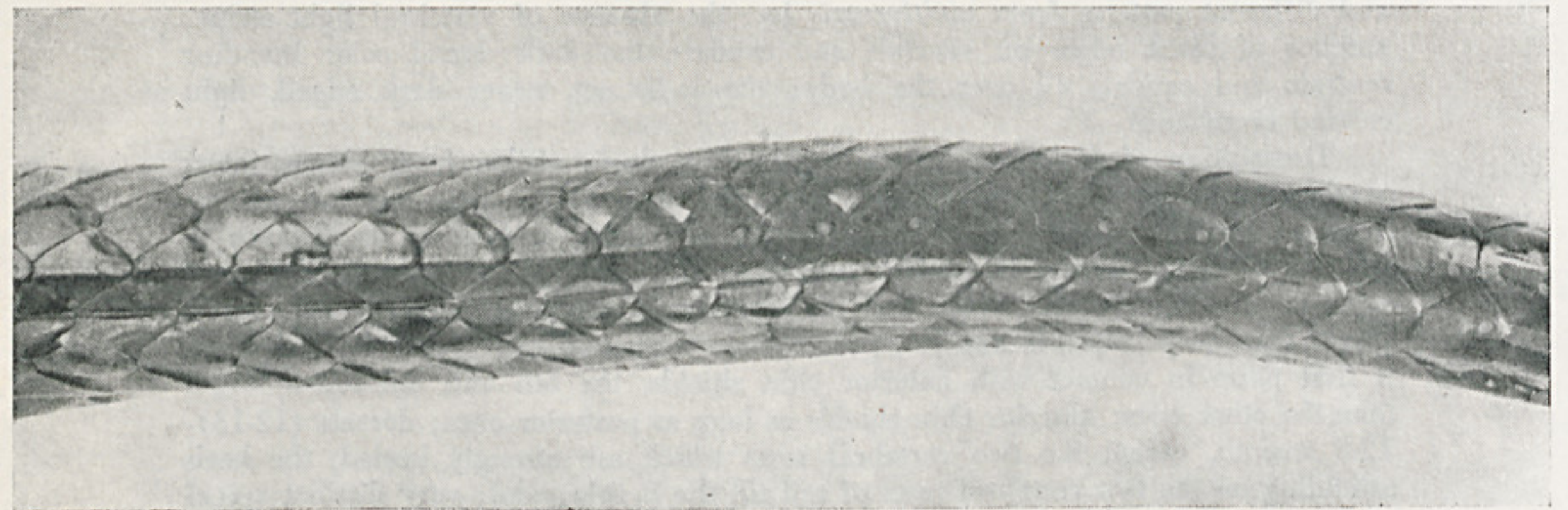


Fig. 2 — Holotype USNM 158103



Ground color brown-olive; the keels of dorsal scales slightly darker than ground color; a series of light, very indistinct crossbands on the posterior part of the body, without black edges and heavily spotted with dark olive-brown; the dorsal ground color extending laterally on the ventrals and caudals.

The head, above of same brown-green ground color, slightly lighter behind the parietals. After some time of preservation the somewhat light regions of occiput and lateral sides of the head becomes of a very light brown, even white color, giving a peculiar aspect only observed in this species.

*Paratypes*: IBH 64629 from Moengo, Surinam collected by C. Bonne. SSM. (Surinam, Stichting Museum) N. 10 from Onverwacht, Surinam, collected by Geyskes, April 25, 1954 (This specimen was provisorily indentified as *C. multiventris* (Hoge, 1954)).

The paratypes besides scale counts are almost identical in pattern and coloration except that, in some specimens the ground color is much darker on the outer side of ventrals building up a dark lateral stripe from posterior part of body till the end of the tail becoming more distinct on tail.

Another specimen USMM n.º 28947 in bad state, from "Lower Amazon", although not quoted as a paratype is here identified as *C. cochranæ*

MMNH 18174, — Kartabo, Brit. Guyana, Berbe — V. 183, T. 1 + 1 (by fusion

MMNH 18174, — Kartabo, Brit. Guyana, Berbe — V. 183, T. 1 + 1 (by fusion of first and 2nd upper temporal, two vertebral strongly keeled in both specimens

AMNH 25030, — V. 187, Kamakusa, Brit. Guyana — caud. 190/190

AMNH 8216, — V. 186, Kalacoon, W. Beebe — G. 183/184

AMNH 8991, — V. 183, Kalacoon, W. Beebe — V. 183, T. 1 + 2, caudals, (inj.)

AMNH 15151, — Kartabo, Brit. Guyana, Beebe — V. 186, G. 199/200 a very faint central gray streak at middle of ventrals,

AMNH 6801, — Rochstone — Brit. Guyana, A. Lutz Head only

SSH 10, Onverwacht, Surinan V. 189. G. 203/203.

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#### RESUMO

Descrição de uma sp. n. de *Colubridae*; *Chironius cochranæ* — loc. tipo.. Água Preta, Utinga, próximo a Belém, Pará, Brasil.



