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## The Gray Lora *Leptophis stimsoni*, a Rare Snake in Trinidad, West Indies

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## NATURE NOTE

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### The Gray Lora *Leptophis stimsoni*, a Rare Snake in Trinidad, West Indies

The Gray Lora, *Leptophis stimsoni*, is endemic and one of the rarer snakes to Trinidad. The first specimen was collected by Ivan Sanderson in 1937 (Sanderson 1940) and I was present when the second specimen was collected near the Cumaca Cave in 1987. To date, only three specimens have been collected and lodged in museums as examples of this species.

My interest lies in snakes, so whenever I go into the bush I look for them, as well as for other animals. On the 6 May, 2007, while in the Cumaca Forest, I noticed a small snake lying upon some dried leaves along a narrow hunter's track. It seemed different from the common horsewhip, *Oxybelis aeneus*, the colour on the dorsal surface seemed glossier, and the head was not as sharply pointed. Recalling the photograph in the book "The Snakes of Trinidad and Tobago" (Boos 2001), I came to the conclusion that it was a specimen of the Gray Lora, *Leptophis stimsoni*. The identification was confirmed by Hans Boos on 10 May, 2007, who took the photograph (above).



#### REFERENCES

- Boos, H. E. A.** 2001. The Snakes of Trinidad and Tobago. College Station, Texas: Texas A&M University Press. 270 p.
- Sanderson, I. T.** 1940. Caribbean Treasure. London: Hamish Hamilton. 292 p.

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