

CHECK LIST OF TRINIDAD SNAKES

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Since Emsley (1963, Copeia No. 3, Sept. 25, pp. 576–577.) published 'A Consideration of the List of Snakes Recorded from Trinidad' a complete listing of the Snakes of Trinidad with literature references has not been made.

Herewith is given such a list, based on the most recent available literature. Wherever necessary, notes have been added.

Family: Typhlopidae.

1. **Typhlops trinitatus** Richmond

1963 **Typhlops** sp. Emsley, Copeia No. 3: 576.

1965 **Typhlops trinitatus** Richmond, Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, 78: 121, fig. 1

Family: Leptotyphlopidae.

2. **Leptotyphlops goudotii goudotii** (Dumeril and Bibron), new combination. Note: This **Leptotyphlops** was considered to be the species **albifrons** by Wehekind (Trinidad Snakes—Roy. Vic. Inst. Mus. Trinidad, Misc. Pap. No. 1: 1–8, reprinted in J. Brit. Guiana Mus. and Zool. No. 27) who quoted Mole's 'The Snakes of Trinidad' (Port-of-Spain Gazette, 1926) who had quoted Boulenger (1896, Cat. Snakes Brit. Mus.) who listed it as **Glauconia albifrons** (Wagler). When Wehekind published 'Notes on the Food of the Trinidad Snakes' (1955, Brit. J. Herpet, 2: 9–13) he used **Leptotyphlops tenella** (L. albifrons).

In the review of the Genus by Braulio Orejas-Miranda of the Museo Nacional de Uruguay (Catalogue of Neotropical Squamata, Part I. Snakes. J. A. Peters and B. Orejas-Miranda, Smithsonian Inst. Press 1970.) the difference between the above species and the following is the presence or absence of contact between the supraocular and supralabial scales.

2A **Leptotyphlops tenella** Klauber

1939 **Leptotyphlops tenella** Klauber, Trans. San Diego Soc. Nat. Hist., 9: 59, figs 1a–1b.

Family: Boidae.

3. **Boa constrictor constrictor** Linnaeus
1960 **Boa constrictor constrictor**—Forcart, *Herpetologica*,
7: 199.
4. **Corallus enydris cookii** Gray
1951 **Corallus enydris cookii**—Forcart, *Herpetologica*, 7:
197.
5. **Epicrates cenchria maurus** Gray
1935 **Epicrates cenchria maurus** Stull, *Proc. Boston Soc.*
Nat. Hist., 40:396.
6. **Eunectes murinus gigas** (Latrielle)
1936 (**Eunectes murinus**) **gigas**—Dunn and Conant, *Proc.*
Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., 88: 503.

Family: Colubridae.

Subfamily: Colubrinae—(Aglypha)

7. **Helicops angulatus** (Linnaeus)
1830 **Helicops angulatus**—Wagler, *Nat. Syst. Amphib.*:171.
8. **Ninia atrata** (Hallowell)
1860 **Ninia atrata**—Cope, *Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila.*,
1860:340.
9. **Mastigodryas boddaerti dunni** (Stuart), new combination.
1941 **Mastigodryas boddaerti dunni**—Stuart, *Misc. Bull.*
Mus. Zool. Univ. Mich., 49:76, pl. 3, fig. 6.

Note: This is the snake listed by Wehekind, quoting Mole,
and Boulenger who called it **Drymobius boddaerti** Sentz.
The present listing for Trinidad given above is in fact
one for Tobago. (1933 Stuart, *Occ. Pap. Mus. Zool.*
Univ. Mich., 254:5). In the most recent listing of Neo-
tropical Squamata there is no specific listing of either the
Genus **Mastigodryas** or **Drymobius** on Trinidad. The des-
cription in the key given for the differentiation of the sub-
species **dunni** and **boddaerti**, says that the Tobago form,
dunni, has two lateral light stripes while **boddaerti**, not
stated to be specifically found on Trinidad, has a single
lateral stripe, which is a characteristic of the snakes seen
on Trinidad. The position as to what this snake found on
Trinidad really is, is further confused by a listing of **Masti-**
godryas amarali (Stuart) as coming from Tobago as well
(1970 *Catalogue of Neotropical Squamata. Part 1. p. 191.*)

and whose description also conforms to the appearance of the Trinidad form. It is also stated that *M. amarali* is found on Margarita Island north of the Venezuelan mainland.

To further cloud the issue, a species and subspecies of the Genus *Drymobius*, called *margaritiferus margaritiferus* (Schlegel) (named for Margarita Island?) is listed as coming from "along Caribbean Coast to northern South America" This distribution could include the Island of Margarita, as is suggested by the name, as well as the island of Trinidad, which again is not listed specifically for any of these snakes. The description of *D. m. margaritiferus* as having, "dorsal pattern reticulate, each scale green surrounded by black" exactly fits the appearance of specimens of this snake known as "Machette Couresse" found by this writer on the islands of Heuvos and Chacachacare between Trinidad and Venezuela. Mole (1926 Snakes of Trinidad) states that it is also found on Gasparee (Gaspar Grande) Island. Thus, until some clarification is made, and in the absence of a specific listing of either *Drymobius* or *Mastigodryas* for Trinidad, it is suggested the one above be accepted.

10. ***Pseustes sulphureus sulphureus* (Wagler)**
1937 *Pseustes sulphureus sulphureus*—Brongersma, Zool. Meded., 20:6, figs. 1a-b.
11. ***Pseustes poecilonotus polylepsis* (Peters)**
1937 *Pseustes (poecilonotus polylepsis)*—Brongersma, Zool. Meded., 20:6.
12. ***Spilotes pullatus pullatus* (Linnaeus)**
1929 *Spilotes pullatus pullatus*—Amaral, Mem. Inst. Butantan, 4:277, fig. 1.
13. ***Drymarchon corais corais* (Boie)**
Note: None of the recent listings or keys for this snake, known in Trinidad as the "Yellow-Tail Cribo", take into consideration or acknowledge its distinctive colouration that gives it its name. *Drymarchon corais corais*, having a dirty yellow or orange tail, has not been specifically described or attributed to Trinidad. Beebe (1946, Zoologica, 31:27) describes this "Yellow-Tail Cribo" from Guyana and Venezuela. The Genus *Drymarchon* was first used by Fitzinger in 1843 and the species *corais* by Boie in 1827

when he described *Coluber corais* as coming from "America".

14. **Chironius carinatus** (Linnaeus)
1922 *Chironius carinatus*—Ruthven, Misc. Publ. Mus. Zool. Univ. Mich., 8:65.
15. **Leptophis ahaetulla coeruleodorsus** Oliver
1958 *Leptophis ahaetulla (coeruleodorsus)*—Int. Comm. Zool. Nomen., Op. 524:270.
16. **Leptophis riveti** Despax
Note: Oliver (1948 Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., 92:250, figs. 4-5.) describes this as *Thalerophis riveti* using the old name for the Genus. Emsley (Copeia 1963) lists *Leptophis reveti*. This spelling error is hereby noted. Emsley suggests that *riveti* may in fact be from Tobago, and not from Trinidad.
17. **Leimadophis melanotus** (Shaw)
1929 *Leimadophis melanotus*—Amaral, Mem. Inst. Butantan. 4:166.
1966 *Leimadophis melanotus*—Roze, Orfidios deVenezuela: 159, fig. 38.
18. **Leimadophis reginae reginae** (Linnaeus)
1935 *Leimadophis reginae (reginae)*—Amaral, Mem. Inst. Butantan, 9:238.
19. **Liophis cobella** (Linnaeus)
1925 *Liophis cobella*—Amaral, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus., 67 (24):7.
20. **Hydrops triangularis neglectus** Roze
1957 *Hydrops triangularis neglectus* Roze, Acta. Biol. Venezuelica, 2:78, fig. 13c.
21. **Atractus trilineatus** Wagler
1828 *Atractus trilineatus* Wagler, Isis von Oken, 21:742, pl. 10 figs. 1-4.
22. **Erythrolamprus aesculapii aesculapii** (Linnaeus)
1863 *Erythrolamprus Aesculapii (Aesculapii)*—Jan, Arch. Zool. Anat. Fis., 2:314.
Note: Though it is not specifically stated in the most recent

list of South American Snakes that the subspecies **aesculapii** comes from Trinidad, the species **aesculapii** is listed for Trinidad (Emsley. Copeia 1963) as differing from **aesculapii (ocellatus)** found on Tobago. The form on Trinidad is very different from the one from Tobago in colour pattern, and whatever physical differences that there are, may be soon resolved. The only specimen of this snake found on Trinidad was recently sent to Prof. Robert Mertens for his appraisal of its status.

Family: Colubridae.

Subfamily: Boiginae-(Opisthoglypha)

23. **Tantilla melanocephala melanocephala** (Linnaeus)
1943 **Tantilla melanocephala melanocephala**—Schmidt and Walker, Zool. Ser. Field Mus. Nat. Hist., 24:318.
24. **Siphlophis cervinus** (Laurenti)
1964 **Siphlophis cirvinus**—Hoge, Mem. Inst. Butantan, 30 (1960–62):43.
Note: This snake should be considered rare. It has not been collected since 1925 (Mole). This was on Ortinola Estate. Maracas Valley.
25. **Tripannurgos compressus** (Daudin)
1896 **Trypannurgos compressus**—Boulenger, Cat. Sn. Brit. Mus., 3:58.
26. **Imantodes cenchoa cenchoa** Linnaeus
1942 (**Imantodes cenchoa**) **cenchoa**—Smith, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus., 92:348.
27. **Leptodeira annulata ashmeadi** (Hallowell)
1958 **Leptodeira annulata ashmeadi**—Duellman, Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., 114:43.
Note: The characteristics used to put the Trinidad form of **Leptodeira** into the above subspecies seem so variable, that it is my opinion that this matter is far from settled.
28. **Oxyrhopus petola petola** (Linnaeus)
1946 **Oxyrhopus petola petola**—Beebe, Zoologica, 31:37.
29. **Clelia clelia clelia** (Daudin)
1944 **Clelia clelia clelia** Dunn, Caldasia, 3 (12):201.

30. **Pseudoboa newwiedii** (Dumeril, Bibron and Dumeril)
1901 **Pseudoboa newwiedii**—Stejneger, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus.,
24:189.

31. **Oxybelis aeneus** (Wagler)
1830 (**Oxybelis**) **aeneus**—Wagler, Nat. Syst. Amphib. 183.
Note: Emsley (Copeia, 1963) seems to retain in the list the
species **Oxybelis fulgidus** from Trinidad solely because
'Patos Island which was administratively part of Trinidad
until 1942'. He does not make his point clear. Patos Island
was handed back to Venezuela on Sept. 29, 1942. Thus
Oxybelis fulgidus, found there, and never collected on
Trinidad, should no longer be included in the list of
Trinidad Snakes.

Family: Dipsadinae.

32. **Dipsas variegata trinitatis** Parker
1960 **Dipsas variegata trinitatis**—Peters, Misc. Publ. Mus.
Zool. Univ. Mich., 114:139.
33. **Sibon nebulata nebulata** (Linnaeus)
1960 **Sibon nebulata nebulata**—Peters, Misc. Publ. Mus.
Zoo. Univ. Mich., 114:199.

Family: Elapidae.

34. **Micrurus lemniscatus diutius** Burger
1955 **Micrurus lemniscatus diutius** Burger, Bol. Mus. Cien.
Nat., Caracas. 1:8.
35. **Micrurus psyches circinalis** (Dumeril, Bibron and Dumeril)
1967 **Micrurus psyches circinalis**—Roze, Amer. Mus. No-
vitates, 2287:40.

Family: Viperidae.

Subfamily: Crotalinae.

36. **Bothrops atrox** (Linnaeus)
1758 **Coluber antrox** Linnaeus., Systema Naturae, Ed.
10:222
37. **Lachesis muta muta** (Linnaeus)
1951 **Lachesis muta muta**—Taylor, Univ. Kansas Sci. Bull.
34:184.

Note: In the "Catalogue of the Neotropical Squamata: Part I. Snakes" there is a listing for Trinidad as follows:-

Family: Anomalapididae.

Typhlophis squamosus (Schlegel)

1893 *Typhlophis squamosus* – Boulenger, Cat. Sn. Brit. Mus., 1:57. This is the first indication in any list, that either this Family of Genus is to be found on Trinidad. A search in the reference literature, which is not readily available, for the origin of this listing will have to be conducted and verification that a specimen from Trinidad island does exist must be produced before consideration can be given to including this species in the list of the Snakes of Trinidad.