

ON A NEW GENUS OF COLUBRIDÆ FROM FLORIDA.

BY ARTHUR ERWIN BROWN.

The snake described below was captured at Lake Kerr, Florida, and was lately received at the Zoological Garden from Mr. N. P. Fry, of that place. As I am unable to refer it to any heretofore described genus of *Colubridæ*, the genus *Stilosoma* is established to receive it.

STILOSOMA genus nov.

Generic Characters.—Body very slender, cylindrical and rigid; tail short; head rounded on frontal outline, not distinct from body. Rostral prominent but not recurved; no prefrontals, anteorbitals or loreal. One nasal. Postfrontals and occipitals in contact with labials. Scales smooth. No scale pits. Anal entire. Teeth smooth. Palatal teeth present.

S. extenuata, species nov.

Eye moderately small. One nasal with nostril in the center. Postfrontals large, in contact with the second and third labials and forming, with the latter, the anterior border of the orbit. Vertical hexagonal, the anterior angle obtuse. Superciliaries short and broad. Occipitals large, bounding the postorbitals behind and touching the fifth labial. Two small postorbitals, the lower one resting on a notch between the fourth and fifth labials. Three temporals in a horizontal series; the first lying between the fifth and sixth labials and ten occipitals. Six superior labials; third and fourth in orbit; fifth largest. Five lower labials; fourth very large. Three pairs of thin shields. Nineteen rows of dorsal scales, lozenge shaped and perfectly smooth.

Abdominal scutellæ 235. Subcaudals small in 44 pairs.

Ground color silvery-gray, with sixty-one dorsal spots of dark brown with blackish border, from head to anus and eleven on the tail. Anteriorly, the spots are from two to four scales long and from five to seven wide; posteriorly becoming smaller. The interspaces are about equal in length to two spots and have the three median rows of scales mottled with pale red. Under surface of body silvery gray, much blotched with black, which runs up on the three exterior rows of scales, opposite the intervals between the dorsal spots. On the sides, each light scale is finely punctuated with

black. An elongated, triangular dark patch on the occipitals, pointing backward and a small dark blotch just below it on each side of the neck. A dark bar running back from the eye on the upper margin of the labials. The forepart of the head and the chin and throat much maculated with black.

Total length of specimen 532 mm. (21 in.). Length of tail 50 mm. (2 in.).

The general coloring of the specimen is much like that of *Rhinochilis leontii*, but the generic and other characters render it impossible to confuse it with that or any other North American species. The fact that but one specimen has yet been collected in a region so comparatively well known as northern Florida renders it probable that the species is of extreme rarity.

The specimen is herewith presented to the Academy.



Brown, Arthur Erwin. 1890. "On a new genus of Colubridae from Florida." *Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia* 42, 199–200.

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