

live to be several years older than normal, but they are more probably lizards that experienced unusually good growing conditions or that inherited the ability to grow rapidly. Some specimens that are 70 to 72 mm. long appear to be older, by virtue of their heavy scarred heads, than some of the largest ones.

In the light of our findings it seems incredible that Taylor (A taxonomic study of the . . . genus *Eumeces* . . . , Bull. Univ. Kansas, 23:67, 1935), could have detected 16 age groups, 5 of which fall between our first two, by using measurements of the snout-vent length of the specimens of *skiltonianus* available to him at the time of his study. Taylor does not state how many specimens he used, how great an area was represented in the "locality" from which they came, or how many years were involved. However, his list of material examined indicates that he did not have more than 50 specimens of *skiltonianus* taken in May (of many years) from any combination of four adjoining counties.

Summary.—Young of *Eumeces skiltonianus* are hatched in the months of July and August. They average about 25 mm. long (snout-vent length) then and grow to about 50 mm. by the time they are one year old. Most of their growth takes place in the first three months of life and in the following April, May, and June. These skinks grow to about 65 mm. by the time they are two years old, and to about 68 mm. when they are three years old. Some may breed when they are two years of age, but most of them breed at the end of their third year. The normal life span for individuals once having attained breeding condition is probably five or six years. The oldest individuals are probably not more than nine years old. The results of this study make it impossible for the authors to accept Taylor's 16 age groups for skinks of this species, four of which fall between our first two.

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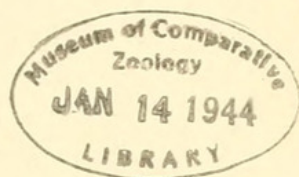
DECEMBER 30, 1943

A NEW SNAKE OF THE GENUS *SONORA*
FROM LOWER CALIFORNIA, MEXICO

BY

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28,898

Some time ago I received from Mrs. Griffing Bancroft a *Sonora* of the *semiannulata* group, which, as far as I know, is the first specimen of this group to have been taken on the Pacific side of the mountains on the peninsula of Lower California. Since this snake differs from the known members of the genus, I take pleasure in naming it after Mrs. Bancroft, a friend of more than forty years, who, with her husband, has been the source of many fine reptile specimens collected in the course of their oölogical and archaeological expeditions to Lower California, Sonora, and the islands of the Gulf of California.

***Sonora bancroftae* sp. nov.**

Type.—No. 35,077 in the collection of LMK, collected two miles east of San Jorge,¹ Lower California, Mexico, by Mrs. Griffing Bancroft, April 10, 1942.

Diagnosis.—A *Sonora* of the rounded-snout group, differing from *mosaueri* of the middle of the peninsula in having cross bands, whereas *mosaueri* is unicolor; also, *bancroftae* has more ventrals and subcaudals. From *semiannulata* it differs in the color of both the background and bands.

Description of the Type.—A female; length over-all 194 mm.; tail length 36 mm. The scale rows are 15-15-14; the dorsal scales are smooth, and with single apical pits. The ventrals number 171 and the subcaudals 47; the latter are divided, as is also the anal. The supralabials are 7-7, infralabials 8-8, loreals probably² 1-1, preoculars probably 1-1, postoculars 2-2, temporals 1+2, 1+2.

¹San Jorge is in the valley of the San Telmo River about twenty miles above its mouth. It will be found on the American Geographical Society map of Baja California—Norte, Provisional Edition, 1928, a few miles northeast of the intersection of Lat. 31° N. and Long. 116° W.

²The type specimen died from an injury incident to its capture a day or so before it reached me, in consequence of which the head is rather shrunken anteriorly.

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The scale rows were counted at the points recommended by Stickel in his summary of the genus.³

The pattern comprises a series of evenly-edged gray cross bands (34 on the body, 8 on the tail) on a light-brown ground. The ground color (as preserved in alcohol) is Orange-Cinnamon.⁴ The cross bands are Deep Neutral Gray. Below the color is Pinkish Buff. The dark bands are usually wider than the interspaces; they are from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$ scales (end to end) wide, while the spaces between are 2 to 3. The gray color comprises many fine punctations, the ground color showing through to some extent. The gray bands fade out as they reach the lowest lateral scale rows; however, they do not narrow laterally as is usual in *S. s. semiannulata*, nor are the interspaces clouded with dark spots laterally as is often the case in the latter subspecies. All dorsal scales are somewhat lighter on the edges than in the centers. The ventrum is immaculate buff.

The top of the head is dark. There is a narrow light crescent which engages the eyes; behind this on the neck is the first dark ring, which likewise is crescent-shaped.

Remarks.—The species is known only from the type. It was captured when a rock was overturned in seeking a missile to throw at a red diamond rattler. There was a second specimen under the stone, but it was not collected.

This species is most closely related to *S. s. semiannulata*, with which it may eventually be shown to intergrade, although, as far as I know, no *semiannulata* has yet been collected in Lower California. The differences between *bancroftae* and *semiannulata* are primarily in pattern. The yellow-brown ground color in *bancroftae* is not like the cream or red suffusions between the dark rings usually observed in live *semiannulata*, but supplants the true white ground color of the latter. The gray rings in *bancroftae* are relatively wider and closer together than the black rings of *semiannulata* and do not taper laterally as is the case in the Arizona snakes.

³William H. Stickel: The Snakes of the Genus *Sonora* in the United States and Lower California. *Copeia*, No. 4, pp. 182-190, 1938.

⁴Capitalized colors are those of Ridgway: Color Standards and Color Nomenclature, 1912.



Klauber, Laurence Monroe. 1943. "A desert subspecies of the snake *Tantilla eiseni*." *Transactions of the San Diego Society of Natural History* 10, 71–74.

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