



Coronella rhombo-maculata.

J.H. Richard del.

P.S. Duvall Lith. France

CORONELLA RHOMBO-MACULATA.—*Holbrook.**Plate XXIII.*

CHARACTERS. Head short, small; body elongated, covered with smooth scales above and plates below; superior surface chestnut-brown, with a vertebral series of rhomboid light brown spots; abdomen salmon-coloured. Pl. 211. Sc. 45.

DESCRIPTION. The head is small, short, with the snout truncated. The vertical plate is broad and regularly pentagonal, acute-angled posteriorly; the superior orbitals are elongated, quadrilateral, broader behind, narrower before, and of the same length as the vertical, and project but slightly over the eye. The occipital are large, pentagonal, and receive the acute angle of the vertical plate; the frontal are large, pentagonal, broad above and narrow below; the anterior frontal are smaller, quadrilateral, and larger below than above. The rostral plate is pentagonal, blunt before, broadest and slightly concave below; there are two nasal plates, quadrilateral, nearly of the same form and size; one is lunated before and the other behind. The anterior orbital plate is single, quadrilateral, slightly lunated behind, and large, with a square loral plate in front; there are two pentagonal posterior orbital, the upper rather larger; the inferior wall of the orbit is completed by the third and fourth labial plates, of which there are six, increasing in size from the snout to the angle of the mouth; the first is trapezoidal, the second quadrilateral, and the rest are all pentagonal.

The nostrils are lateral near the snout, and open a little upwards and backwards. The eyes are rather small, the pupil dusky, with the iris hazel. The neck is slightly contracted.

The body is elongated, cylindrical, covered above with smooth hexagonal scales, largest on the flanks, and with broad plates below. The tail is short, thick at the base, but soon becomes small, and terminates in a horny point.

COLOUR. The head above is of a uniform chestnut-brown; the lips are lighter, with a dark line at the place of junction of the several plates. The body and tail are chestnut-brown, with vertebral rhomboid spots of light reddish-brown; these spots near the tail have a narrow dusky margin; the throat, as well as the belly and tail, are salmon-coloured, more or less bright.

DIMENSIONS. Length of head, 10 lines; length of body to vent, 24 inches; length of tail beyond the vent, 4 inches: total length, 28 inches 10 lines. The specimen here described had 211 abdominal plates and 45 sub-caudal scales, with a horny tip at the tail.

HABITS. I am unacquainted with the habits of this animal, never having seen but two specimens.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION. As yet I can give only Georgia and Alabama as the residence of this animal.

GENERAL REMARKS. To my friend Professor Horner, of the University of Pennsylvania, I am indebted for the first specimen of this serpent that I ever saw, which he received from Georgia.



Holbrook, John Edwards. 1842. "Coronella rhombo-maculata – Holbrook." *North American herpetology; or, A description of the reptiles inhabiting the United States* 3, 103–104. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.326814>.

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