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III
**EXPEDITION TO THE REVILLAGIGEDO ISLANDS,
MEXICO, IN 1925, III**

NOTES ON A COLLECTION OF REPTILES AND
AMPHIBIANS FROM THE TRES MARIAS AND
REVILLAGIGEDO ISLANDS, AND WEST
COAST OF MEXICO, WITH DESCRIPTION
OF A NEW SPECIES
OF TANTILLA

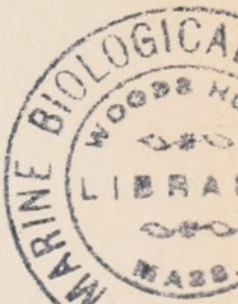
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The following notes are based on a collection of reptiles and amphibians made on the Academy's expedition to the Tres Marias and Revillagigedo islands, in the spring of 1925, on board the United States Ship *Ortolan*, Lieutenant M. M. Nelson, U. S. Navy, commanding.

The expedition besides making investigations among the Tres Marias and Revillagigedo islands, also made stops along the west coast of Lower California, and some of the adjacent islands.

As larger series of specimens from these regions than have heretofore been available for study were gathered, and as a new species and new records were obtained, it was thought advisable to publish the following notes in hopes that they may be of use to future students who may be interested in the herpetology of western Mexico.

April 26, 1926



I

REVILLAGIGEDO ISLANDS

1. *Uta clarionensis* Townsend

An abundant species about the lowlands and rocky ridges in the vicinity of Sulphur Bay, Clarion Island. This lizard was found among the outcroppings of lava in the brushy areas and seemed to be confined strictly to the lower levels as none were observed on the plateau or higher parts of the island.

A male (No. 58190) was colored in life as follows: Body with irregular dorsal and lateral black markings; tail and limbs cross-barred with black; ground color a rich cobalt green. Females are brown above, show less of the black markings of the male, and have a yellowish lateral stripe extending from the ear opening to the hind limb. Under surfaces are whitish. Both Van Denburgh¹ and Townsend² speak of the coloring as bluish, similar to *Uta auriculata* from Socorro Island, but these descriptions are evidently from alcoholic specimens as all those now in the Academy's series have lost the green coloring and have changed to a light blue.

The femoral pores in twenty specimens vary from ten to fourteen; being 10 four times, 11 ten times, 12 sixteen times, 13 eight times, and 14 once. Males have enlarged postanal plates.

2. *Coluber anthonyi* (Stejneger)

A common species about the sea bird colonies and cactus patches in the vicinity of Sulphur Bay, Clarion Island. It was found mostly in the dense thickets and appeared to be confined chiefly to the area close to and encircling the sand beach. Of the sixteen specimens taken none were found to contain any food.

¹ The Reptiles of Western North America, Vol. I, 1922, p. 196.

² Proc. U. S. N. M., Vol. 13, 1890, p. 143.

The color above in living specimens varies from pale to dark brown, and sometimes shows a reddish tinge; a few scattered black dots on top of the head; under surfaces yellowish or whitish, with gular region sometimes clouded or marbled with black.

The scale counts are given below. All have 17 scale rows.

Number	Sex	Gastro- steges	Uro- steges	Supra- labials	Infra- labials	Pre- oculars	Post- oculars	Loreal	Temporals
58173	♀	186	98+	8-8	8-8	2-2	2-2	1-1	2+2-2+2
58174	♀	188	90+	8-8	8-8	2-2	2-2	1-1	2+2-2+2
58175	♂	191	100+	8-8	8-8	2-2	2-2	1-1	2+2-2+2
58176	♂	190	54+	8-8	8-8	2-2	2-2	1-1	2+2-2+2
58177	♀	189	94+	8-8	8-8	2-2	2-2	1-1	2+2-2+3
58178	♂	193	107c	8-8	8-8	2-2	2-2	1-1	2+2-2+2
58179	♂	191	92+	8-8	8-8	2-2	2-2	1-1	2+2-2+2
58180	♂	191	103c	8-8	8-8	2-2	2-2	1-1	2+2-2+2
58181	♂	189	104c	8-8	8-8	2-2	2-2	1-1	2+2-2+2
58182	♀	189	75+	8-8	8-8	2-2	2-2	1-1	2+2-2+2
58183	♂	197	82+	8-8	8-8	2-2	2-2	1-1	2+2-2+2
58184	♂	192	90+	8-8	8-8	2-2	2-2	1-1	2+2-2+2
58185	♂	194	105c	8-8	8-8	2-2	2-2	1-1	2+2-2+2
58186	♂	196	76+	8-8	8-8	2-2	2-2	1-1	2+2-2+2
58187	♂	189	103c	8-8	8-8	2-2	2-2	1-1	2+2-2+2
58188	♂	186	94+	8-8	8-8	2-2	2-2	1-1	2+2-2+2

3. *Uta auriculata* Cope

This species, the only one found on Socorro Island, ranged from sea level to about 2,500 feet, but only one or two specimens were found at this elevation. It was found to be generally confined to the arroyos and small flats back of the numerous little coves along the shore line. A common but not an abundant species.

Color in life bluish, with irregular black dorsal markings; tail and limbs cross-barred with black; under surfaces dotted or marbled with black. Females are sometimes brown above.

The femoral pores in twenty specimens vary from ten to thirteen; being 10 twelve times, 11 seventeen times, 12 seven times, and 13 four times. Males have enlarged postanal plates.

II

TRES MARIAS AND ISABEL ISLANDS

1. *Phyllodactylus tuberculosus* Wiegmann

Four specimens (Nos. 58950-58953) were taken on Maria Madre Island May 16-23, 1925. These were found under the bark of trees, and on walls of deserted houses where they were found at night while searching for insects.

2. *Anolis nebulosus* Wiegmann

Taken on Maria Madre and Magdalena islands. This little lizard was found on the trees, vines, and stones in the ravines and cañon bottoms. It was not found to be a common species on either island.

The color in living specimens may be gray or light brown, with irregular dorsal markings of black or orange, sometimes forming bands on the tail. The limbs are cross-barred with black. The under surfaces are whitish. Males have a large dark red or yellow gular pouch extending along the belly to a point midway between the hind limbs. One specimen (No. 59004) has a wide light dorsal stripe edged with black.

3. *Uta lateralis* Boulenger

Common on both Maria Madre and Maria Magdalena islands. It inhabits the area back of the beach line where it is found among the driftwood and fallen trees.

A male (No. 59049) was colored in life as follows: Upper surfaces grayish, with four regular rows of black oval blotches between the limbs; limbs barred with black; a yellow streak along the side of the head from the snout to the fore limb; throat light blue; belly blue with obscure black spots.

The femoral pores in twenty specimens vary from ten to thirteen; being 10 eight times, 11 nineteen times, 12 seven times, and 13 six times. Males have enlarged postanal plates.

4. *Sceloporus boulengeri* Stejneger

Abundant on Isabel Island and found mostly on the small trees back of the landing place. It is strictly an arboreal species and in habits resembles *Sceloporus clarkii*, its northern relative.

An adult male (No. 59083) was colored in life as follows: Light gray above with scattered scales of pale blue; lower front and hind limbs cross-barred with black; gular region blue, edged anteriorly with black; a large black shoulder patch extending on to the throat and connecting on the median line. The belly is blue with a central streak of black two to three scales wide.

The ear opening is large protected by very small scales. Dorsal scale rows in twenty specimens vary from 22 to 26, femoral pores from eight to eleven; being 8 ten times, 9 seventeen times, 10 twelve times, and eleven once.

5. *Cnemidophorus mariarum* Günther

A very abundant species about the lower levels of Maria Madre Island, where it was found along the roads, trails, and in the brush thickets. This species was found to be rare on Maria Magdalena Island, where it was also taken.

A large male (No. 58846) was colored in life as follows: Grayish above, with two longitudinal rows of black blotches on the sides; top of head light olive; top of limbs grayish with small yellowish dots; belly bluish black with some scales of light blue along the edges; lower surfaces of limbs bluish black; lower surface of tail salmon; gular region salmon, clouded with black.

Femoral pores in twenty specimens vary from nineteen to twenty-four; being 19 three times, 20 twelve times, 21 nine times, 22 ten times, 23 five times, and 24 once.

6. *Cnemidophorus gularis mexicanus* (Peters)

Found very abundant on the beach at Isabel Island. Hundreds of them were observed feeding on the insects gathered about an immense pile of dead sharks left on the sand beach by Mexican fishermen.

A typical specimen (No. 59259) was colored in life as follows: Brownish above, with three longitudinal yellowish lines on each side. The ground color between these lines is marked with a series of small yellowish spots. The top of the head is brown; upper surfaces of the limbs spotted with black and yellow; lower surfaces whitish, spotted with black; gular region reddish. In some specimens the belly is nearly uniform black with a few white spots.

The femoral pores in twenty specimens vary from eighteen to twenty-three: being 18 two times, 19 seven times, 20 seventeen times, 21 five times, 22 eight times, and 23 once.

7. *Ctenosaura teres* (Harlan)

A very abundant species on Maria Madre, Maria Magdalena, and Isabel islands. On Maria Madre where it was found most abundantly it lived among the rock piles, and in the hollow tree stumps. They were noticed feeding on the leaves of the various trees and plants, and seemed to be particularly fond of the fruit of the cactus. They were so tame that they would sometimes take the cactus fruit from one's hand when it was offered to them.

The ground color of adult specimens is black, marbled or mottled with reddish or yellowish; throat black or whitish, with black reticulations; belly whitish, clouded or spotted with black. Very young specimens are a light green with black markings. Intermediates are sometimes cross-barred with greenish or reddish between the limbs.

The femoral pores in twenty specimens vary from two to seven; being 2 once, 3 once, 5 seven times, 6 twenty-one times, and 7 ten times.

8. *Tantilla nelsoni* Slevin, new species

Diagnosis.—Rostral small, a little broader than deep, scarcely visible from above; frontal large, a little longer than broad; nostril in a single nasal; symphyseal in contact with anterior genials; anterior genials twice as long as posterior. Scales smooth, in 15 rows, gastrosteges 130, urosteges 39c, anal single, supralabials 7—6, infralabials 8—8, preoculars

1—1, postoculars 2—2, temporals 1+2—1+2. Color black, with eleven complete white bands four to five scales wide encircling the body; three encircling the tail; tip of tail white; a narrow white band crosses the back of the head touching the posterior tips of the parietals; snout and top of head, uniform black; anterior labials black, edged with white; posterior labials white; throat white.

Type: No. 58680, Mus. Calif. Acad. Sci., **Maria Madre Island, Tres Marias Islands, Mexico**, collected by a native, May 18, 1925.

Named for Lieutenant M. M. Nelson, U. S. Navy, commanding officer of the U. S. S. *Ortolan*.

9. *Oxybelis acuminatus* (Wied)

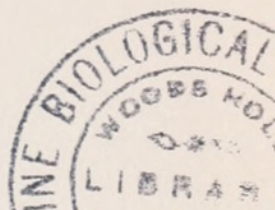
A male of this species (No. 58682) was taken on Maria Madre Island, May 23, 1925. It has 17 scale rows, gastrosteges 190, urosteges 195c, anal divided, supralabials 8—8, infralabials 11—10, preoculars 1—1, postoculars 2—2, loreal absent, temporals 1+2 and 1+2.

Color grayish above, with a few scales black-edged, and a few small scattered black spots; under surfaces grayish.

10. *Drymobius boddærtii* (Seetzen)

Found to be the most common of any of the snakes collected on the Tres Marias. Specimens Nos. 58676-58679 from Maria Madre Island, and Nos. 58990-58991 from Maria Magdalena Island have the following scale counts:

Number	Sex	Scale rows	Gastrosteges	Urosteges	Supralabials	Infralabials	Preoculars	Postoculars	Loreal	Temporals
58676	♀	17	198	117c	8—8	8—8	1—1	2—2	1—1	2+2—2+2
58677	♂	17	195	114+	8—8	9—9	1—1	2—2	1—1	2+3—2+3
58678	♀	17	196	105c	8—8	9—9	1—1	2—2	1—1	2+2—2+2
58679	♂	17	185	110c	8—8	10—10	1—1	2—2	1—1	2+2—2+2
58990	♀	17	202	80+	8—8	10—9	1—1	2—2	1—1	2+2—2+3
58991	♀	17	194	131c	x—8	10—9	1—1	x—2	1—1	x—2+2



11. **Drymarchon corais melanurus** (Duméril & Bibron)

An adult male (No. 58993) was taken late in the afternoon, May 21, 1925, in the bottom of a creek bed on Maria Magdalena Island. It has 17 scale rows, gastrosteges 201, urosteges 78+, anal 1, supralabials x—8, infralabials 7—6, preoculars 1—1, postoculars 2—2, loreal 1—1, temporals 2+2 and 2+2.

Color above black; a few scattered scales brownish, mottled with black; top of head uniform black; 58 posterior gastrosteges and under surface of tail black; anterior gastrosteges white, spotted or edged with black; gular region white.

12. **Boa imperator** Daudin

A male of this species (No. 58681) taken on Maria Madre Island May 21, 1925, has the following scale counts: Scale rows 77, gastrosteges 258, urosteges 66c, anal 1, supralabials 19—20, infralabials 23—24.

This species was also collected on Maria Magdalena Island.

13. **Pelamydrus platurus** (Linnæus)

A dead specimen (No. 58992) was picked up on the beach at Maria Magdalena Island, May 21, 1925.

14. **Kinosternon integrum** Leconte

A single specimen (No. 58675) was found half buried in the mud under an old stump in the creek bottom at Arroyo Hondo, Maria Madre Island, May 17, 1925.

Length of carapace.....290 mm.

Length of plastron.....270 mm.

Width of carapace.....192 mm.

Width of plastron.....161 mm.

III

PENINSULA OF LOWER CALIFORNIA AND
ADJACENT ISLANDS

The reptiles and amphibians of this region have been studied at length by Van Denburgh,¹ but inasmuch as there are now new records to be added to the fauna, the following data are given in order to bring the list of the known species to date, and to complete the report on the herpetology of the expedition.

1. *Hyla regilla* Baird & Girard

Fifty-two specimens (Nos. 59626-59677) were collected on Cerros Island, June 3, 1925. This little tree-toad was found to be abundant along a small stream at the southeast end of the island.

2. *Coleonyx variegatus* (Baird)

One specimen (No. 59625) was found under a large stone in the bottom of a dry wash on Cerros Island, June 4, 1925.

3. *Crotaphytus wislizenii* Baird & Girard

One specimen was taken on Cerros Island, June 4, 1925. This species was also taken on previous expeditions of the Academy to Cerros Island but was found to be very rare.

4. *Callisaurus crinitus* Cope

One hundred and sixty-one specimens (Nos. 59396-59556) were collected at Turtle Bay, June 1, 1925. This lizard was found to be very abundant along the sand beaches at the south end of the bay. It was found mostly about the piles of debris just at the high tide line, where it was seen feeding on the swarms of kelp flies about the dead seaweed.

5. *Callisaurus draconoides draconoides* (Blainville)

Twelve specimens (Nos. 59296-59307) were collected at Cabo San Lucas, May 28, 1925. This lizard is common in the brushy areas back of the sand beach.

¹ Proc. Cal. Acad. Sci., Ser. 4, Vol. IV, 1914.

The Reptiles of Western North America, Vols. I-II, 1922.

6. ***Uta martinensis*** Van Denburgh

Twenty-one specimens were taken in the vicinity of Hassler's Cove, San Martin Island, June 8, 1925. Found sparingly among the low-growing shrubs at the back of a small sand beach.

7. ***Uta nigricauda*** Cope

Thirteen specimens (Nos. 59331-59343) were collected on Magdalena Island, May 29-30, 1925. Found most commonly upon the large rocks in the bottoms of the dry washes.

8. ***Uta stansburiana elegans*** (Yarrow)

Nine specimens (Nos. 59344-59352) were taken on Magdalena Island, May 29, 1925, three (Nos. 59393-59395) at Turtle Bay, June 1, 1925, three (Nos. 59560-59562) at San Bartolome Bay, June 2, 1925, and thirty-seven specimens on Cerros Island, June 3-4, 1925. Generally an abundant species when met with.

9. ***Sceloporus rufidorsum*** Yarrow

Nine specimens (Nos. 59569-59577) were collected on Cerros Island, June 3-5, 1925. Found sparingly among the dense brush thickets in the bottoms of the dry washes.

10. ***Sceloporus zosteromus*** Cope

Fourteen specimens were taken on Magdalena Island, May 29, 1925, and one specimen (No. 59392) was taken at Turtle Bay, June 1, 1925. A very shy but common species among the cactus patches and brush thickets.

11. ***Phrynosoma coronatum*** Blainville

A single specimen (No. 59703) was taken at San Quintin, June 7, 1925.

12. ***Gerrhonotus scincicauda webbiai*** (Baird)

Two specimens were collected on Cerros Island, June 3-5, 1925, and two specimens on San Martin Island, June 8, 1925. Of the two from Cerros Island, both have the temporals feebly

keeled and the longitudinal dorsal series of scales in 14 2/2 rows. This species was found to be very rare on Cerros Island. On a previous expedition of the Academy a specimen was caught in a mouse trap.

13. ***Verticaria hyperythra beldingi*** (Stejneger)

Twenty-one specimens (Nos. 59310-59330) were collected on Magdalena Island, May 29-30, 1925. All these specimens have the four supraocular plates and the large collar scales. Eighteen are typical *V. h. beldingi* having the double dorsal line, while only three (Nos. 59317, 59318, and 59323) have the single dorsal line characteristic of *V. h. schmidtii*.

14. ***Cnemidophorus bartolomas*** Dickerson

Two specimens (Nos. 59558-59559) were collected at San Bartolome Bay, June 2, 1925. Neither of these specimens agree with the description of the type¹ in dorsal coloration, showing none of the alternating of the spots in the dorsal rows. Van Denburgh² was doubtful as to the distinctness of this species from *C. rubidus*. Of the two specimens before me the dorsal coloration of No. 59558 resembles that of *C. t. stejnegeri*, while that of No. 59559 resembles *C. rubidus*. The gular region of the former shows less of the black markings characteristic of *C. t. stejnegeri*, while the latter has the black throat markings found in specimens of *C. rubidus* from Magdalena Island. More material and further study may prove this species to be an intergrade between *C. rubidus* and *C. t. stejnegeri*.

15. ***Cnemidophorus multiscutatus*** (Cope)

Eight specimens were taken on Cerros Island, June 4-5, 1925. All show the black spotting on the lower surface of the tail.

16. ***Cnemidophorus rubidus*** (Cope)

A single specimen (No. 59389) was taken on Magdalena Island, May 30, 1925. It has the black throat markings of specimens from this locality.

¹Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., Vol. XLI, Art. X, p. 476.

²The Reptiles of Western North America, Vol. 1, 1922, p. 525.

17. *Coluber flagellum piceus* (Cope)

A male of this species (No. 59391) from Magdalena Island, collected on May 30, 1925, has 17 scale rows, gastrosteges 199, urosteges 121c, anal divided, supralabials 8—8, infralabials 10—10, preoculars 2—2, postoculars 2—2, loreal 1—1, temporals 2+3—2+3.

18. *Pituophis catenifer annectens* (Baird & Girard)

Specimens Nos. 59390 from Magdalena Island, May 29, 1925, 59568 from Cerros Island, June 4, 1925, and 59678-59679 from San Martin Island have the following scale counts:

Number	Sex	Scale rows	Gastrosteges	Urosteges	Supralabials	Infralabials	Preoculars	Postoculars	Loreal	Temporals
59390	♂	33	245	61c	9-9	12-12	1-1	3-3	1-1	3-3
59568	♂	31	231	61c	9-9	12-12	2-2	3-4	1-1	4-5
59678	♂	33	234	75+	8-9	12-12	1-1	4-4	1-1	4-4
59679	♂	33	227	71c	9-8	12-12	1-1	4-4	1-1	4-4

19. *Crotalus exsul* Garman

A male of this species (No. 59557) was taken at San Bartolome Bay, June 2, 1925. It has 27 scale rows, gastrosteges 191, urosteges 24c, anal 1, supralabials 15—16, infralabials 16—16, preoculars 2—2, postoculars 3—3, loreal 1—1. Five specimens (Nos. 59563-59567) taken on Cerros Island, June 3-4, 1925, have the following scale counts:

Number	Sex	Scale rows	Gastrosteges	Urosteges	Supralabials	Infralabials	Preoculars	Postoculars	Loreal
59563	♂	27	195	19c	17-17	16-17	2-2	3-3	1-1
59564	♀	27	194	17c	16-16	16-16	2-2	3-3	1-1
59565	♂	27	191	21c	15-14	15-15	2-2	3-3	1-1
59566	♂	27	190	22c	16-16	x-16	2-2	3-3	1-1
59567	♂	27	189	23c	17-17	16-16	2-2	3-3	1-1

20. *Eretmochelys squamosa* (Girard)

A small female (No. 59704) was secured. This specimen was caught by some Japanese fishermen close to Cabo San Lucas, May 27, 1925.



Photo. by G. Dallas Hanna



Photo. by G. Dallas Hanna

Fig. 1. *Uta auriculata*
Grayson's Cove, Socorro Island, Revillagigedo Islands, Mexico, May 11, 1925.

Fig. 2. *Ctenosaura teres*
Maria Madre Island, Tres Marias Islands, Mexico, May 15, 1925.



Slevin, Joseph Richard. 1926. "Expedition to the Revillagigedo Islands, Mexico, in 1925, III. Notes on a collection of reptiles and amphibians from the Tres Marias and Revillagigedo Islands, and the West Coast of Mexico, with description of a new species of *Tantilla*." *Proceedings of the California Academy of Sciences*, 4th series 15, 195–207.

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