
THE CANEBRAKE RATTLER IN OKLAHOMA

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On the morning of July 12, 1947, a small female rattlesnake was captured near the source of a small unnamed creek entering Little River, McCurtain County, just south of the U. S. Highway 70 bridge. The exact location is about three-fourths of mile north of the river and a half mile west of the highway. The snake was resting under drift wood on coarse gravel in the dry stream bed. It was easily identified as *Crotalus horridus atricaudatus* Latreille (canebrake rattlesnake) by use of Gloyd's (1940) keys and appears from his description to be a typical member of this subspecies rather than an intergrade with *C. h. horridus* as one might expect from the locality. The habitat here is heavily wooded and quite low.

A summary of the characteristics of this specimen follows:

Color generally light grey with flush of pink laterally; with dark but not-quite-black somewhat-irregular distinct V-shaped dorsal markings; light-centered lateral dark spots; and a middorsal light-chocolate-brown stripe three to four scales wide. Venter light, with speckles on some scales, especially

opposite the lateral spots. Tail very dark, shading to black near the first rattle, lighter anteroventrally; first rattle nearly black, the four others present, brown; the button missing.

Total length, 785 mm.; tail, 67 mm; tail/total length, 0.085+. Dorsal blotches, 28. Caudals, 22 (6 divided). Ventrals, 173.

Number of dorsal scale rows: Anterior, 26; midbody, 24; posterior, 20.

Supralabials, 12; infralabials, 15; loreals, 2; canthals, 1-1; postoculars, 4; preoculars separated from the postnasal by 2 loreals; first supralabial in direct contact with the anterior nasal; number of scales between orbit and supralabials, 4 (3 without postocular).

The specimen is in the collection of the University of Oklahoma Biological Survey under field number 6738-18. Acknowledgment is made for the use of Survey facilities.

LITERATURE CITED

- Gloyd, H. K. 1940. The rattlesnakes, genera *Sistrurus* and *Crotalus*. Special Bull. Chicago Acad. Sc. 4: 1-266.
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