Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.


**Lampropeltis triangulum** (Lacepède)

*Milk Snake*


*Ahabes triangulum*: Duméril, Bibron, and Duméril, 1854:315.

*Lampropeltis triangula*: Cope, 1861a:256.

- **Content.** Twenty-five subspecies are recognized: *trianngulum, abnorma, amauroa, andesiana, annulata, arecta, blanchardi, campbelli, celeris, conantii, dixoni, elapoides, gaigeae, genterils, hambyrites, micropholis, multistrata, nelsoni, oligozona, polyzona, stiakae, stettii, stuarti, syspila, and trivirgi* (but see Remark).

- **Definition.** A species of *Lampropeltis* with a body and tail color pattern consisting of rings or blotches involving the following sequence starting from the nape: yellow (or white), black, red (or orange, brown, or gray), black. If red (or equivalent) blotches are present, they are completely margined by black pigment, with pale pigment surrounding each blotch. The venter in blotched forms varies from an almost immaculate white to a checkerboard pattern of black and white rectangular markings. The red and white scales on the body and tail vary from having no black pigment on them to being nearly obscured by it. Dorsal scale rows normally range from 19-25 at midbody, reducing posteriorly (usually by fusion of rows 4 + 5) to 17 or 19. Supralabials usually are 7, infralabials 9. Preoculars usually

*Figure.* Lampropeltis triangulum from Jefferson County, Indiana (top) and from Okaloosa County, Florida (bottom). Photographs by Suzanne L. and Joseph T. Collins, The Center for North American Amphibians and Reptiles.
are 7, postoculars 2, loreals 1 (frequently absent in individuals from the southeastern United States). Temporals normally are 1 + 2 or 2 + 3. Ventral in males range from 154-236, in females from 161-244; subcaudals in males from 32-63, in females from 31-60. Maxillary teeth range from 11-15, the last two are larger than those preceding them. Adult size varies geographically from small individuals (ca. 500 mm) inhabiting the southeastern United States to large individuals (1500-1900 mm) in southern Mexico and Central America. The head shape in relation to body width varies from slightly distinct to distinct. Tail length averages about 15.9% of total length in males, 14.4% in females.

- **Diagnosis.** Lampropeltis triangulum differs from *L. rhubesii*, *L. mexicana*, and *L. alternus* in having the head less distinct from the body. In addition, this species differs from *L. rhubesii* (within the range of the latter) in having less uniform red rings, often obscured by black pigment medially. Another difference between *L. triangulum* on the one hand, and *L. rhubesii* and *L. mexicana* on the other, is that in the latter two the black rings are edged with a paler color (usually a pale lime green). Lampropeltis rhubesii has a lower ventral count (182-195) than sympatric *L. triangulum* (196-221). All members of the *mexicana* group tend to have considerable gray in the body colors, such as is not so in *triangulum*, except some *triangulum* in the northeastern United States. Lampropeltis triangulum differs from *L. zonata* in that the white rings widen laterally in the former; from *L. pyromelana* in having a black, black and white, or red snout, rather than white. Lampropeltis pyromelana has 46-85 white rings on body, more than *L. triangulum* (10-32). Both *L. pyromelana* and *L. zonata* have a higher ventral scute number (213-238, and 194-227, respectively) than any of the adjacent western United States members of *L. triangulum* (174-208). Lampropeltis triangulum differs from both *L. calligaster* and *L. geoff* in having an alternating pattern of white (yellow), red and black rings or blotches, the latter reaching the ventrals or nearly so, and in having the posterior two maxillary teeth longer and stouter than the preceeding teeth.

- **Descriptions.** Williams (1988) provided detailed descriptions of all subspecies. Quinn (1983) named and gave detailed descriptions of *L. t. campbelli* and *L. t. dixoni*. Powell and Parmerlee (1981) described a color variant *L. t. blanchardi* from Quintana Roo, Mexico, which was banded only over the posterior portion of the body. They also suggested that this pattern is in agreement with a possible trend (unpublished information) toward a uniform red coloration in populations in the northeastern portion of the Peninsula of Yucatán. Frank (1994) included a table listing characteristic patterns of all subspecies.

- **Illustrations.** Many photographs of this species have been published in state and regional guides and in a number of professional works and magazines; no useful purpose would be served by attempting to list them all. Williams (1988) provided color photographs of *abnorma*, *amaura*, *andesiana*, *annulata*, *arcifera*, *campbelli*, *celaenops*, *dixoni*, *elapsoiodes*, *gentilis*, *hondurensis*, *multistriata*, *nelsoni*, *oligozona*, *polyzona*, *stuartae*, *syphila*, *taylori*, and *triangulum*, as well as black and white drawings of head (dorsal, lateral, and ventral views) and body pattern of all subspecies. Quinn (1989) presented similar illustrations of the heads of *campbelli* and *dixoni*, as well as a black and white photograph of *campbelli*. Markel (1990) presented color illustrations of all subspecies. Applegate (1992) showed color photographs of *abnorma*, *amaura*, *annulata*, *arcifera*, *campbelli*, *celaenops*, *dixoni*, *elapsoiodes*, *gentilis*, *hondurensis*, *intergrade*, *taylori*, and *triangulum*. Shaw and Campbell (1974) included a color photograph of *celaenops*. Linzey and Clifford (1981) presented color photographs of *elapsoiodes*, *triangulum*, and a *triangulum x elapsoiodes* intergrade (formerly “temporals”). Englemann and Obst (1981) included color photographs of *arcifera*, *annulata*, *elapsoiodes*, *nelsoni*, and *triangulum*. Applegate (1992) contains color photographs of *abnorma*, *amaura*, *annulata*, *arcifera*, *campbelli*, *dixoni*, *elapsoiodes*, *gentilis*, *hondurensis*, *stuartae*, *syphila*, and *taylori*. Frank (1994) presented color photographs of *abnorma*, *amaura*, *annulata*, *campbelli*, *elapsoiodes*, *gentilis*, *hondurensis*, *multistriata*, *nelsoni*, *stuartae*, *syphila*, *taylori*, *triangulum*, and a *triangulum x elapsoiodes* intergrade (formerly “temporals”). Tryon and Murphy (1982) included black-and-white photographs of *hondurensis* juveniles. Conant (1975) and Conant and Collins (1991) illustrated in color all the eastern and central United States subspecies. Stebbins (1985) included a colored illustration. Behler and King
Distribution of Lampropeltis triangulum in México, Central America, and northern South America. Type-localities are indicated by circles, other localities are marked with dots. Overlapping ranges represent areas of intergradation. The black area is included in Map 1.


- **Distribution.** Lampropeltis triangulum is one of the most widely distributed of all snake species, ranging from 45°N latitude to nearly 4° latitude, a distance of almost 3600 air mile. The species ranges from south-central and southeastern Ontario and southwestern Quebec southward throughout most of the United States east of the Rocky Mountains, northward through New Mexico, southern Colorado, and northern Arizona into the Great Basin in Utah, and southward into México, excluding most of the Chihuahua Desert, all of the Sonoran Desert, and all of the Baja California Peninsula. The range continues southward through Central America into Colombia, Ecuador, and eastward into the Cordillera de la Costa of Venezuela.


- **Fossil Record.** Lampropeltis triangulum has been recorded from the Pleistocene of Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Missouri, Texas, and Virginia; and the Pliocene of Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas (sources are given in Williams, 1988). Meylan (1982) added another Florida Pleistocene record. Mead and Phillips (1981) recorded a Recent occurrence (2000 BP) in the Grand Canyon, Arizona.

- **Pertinent Literature.** Wright and Wright (1957) included information on descriptions and natural history of U.S. populations. The most recent and complete reviews of the species were those of Williams (1978, 1988). Greene (1979) reviewed Williams' (1978) monograph, and Frost and Hillis (1990) were highly critical of the taxonomic approach in Williams' study. Quinn (1983) described two new subspecies and presented descriptions, comparisons, and ecological and reproductive information. Garska (1982) revived L. arcejera as a separate species; Williams (1978) had placed this organism in the synonymy of L. t. arcejera. Wilson and Meyer (1985) presented a different approach to the infraspecific taxa in this species, recognizing four subspecies rather than the 25 presented in this

**Remark.** Collins (1991) and Conant and Collins (1991) implied that this widely distributed taxon may constitute a species complex.

**Etymology.** The name <i>trianulalum</i> is derived from the Latin meaning “triangle,” in reference to the shape of the anterior edge of the first blotch. The name <i>amnus</i> is from the Latin meaning “deviating from the type,” in apparent reference to its divergence from other members of the species. The name <i>amnus</i> is derived from the Greek word <i>amnus</i>, which means dark or dim, apparently in reference to the numerous black rings. The name <i>andeanus</i> is derived from the word <i>Andes</i>, in reference to the mountains in which this race is formed from the Latin <i>andaneus</i>, meaning “like or resembling,” perhaps in reference to the similarity in snout (top of the “cap”) pattern to that of other races of the species. The name <i>taylori</i> is a patronym honoring Edward H. Taylor, designated “our friend and teacher” by describers.

1. <i>Lampropeltis trianulalum trianulalum</i> (Lacepède)


*Ophibolus extimus* Baird and Girard, 1853:387. Williams (1971) considered this name a nomen dubium. McCoy (1972) considered this name a synonym of <i>L. trianulalum</i>.

*Ophibolus clericus* Baird and Girard, 1853:88. Type locality, “Clarke County, Virginia.” Lectotype, National Museum of Natural History (USNM) 2380 (designated by Blanchard, 1921), an adult male, date of collection unknown, collected by C.B. Kennely (examined by the author). Williams (1970) considered the lectotype to be a <i>L. trianulalum s.l. etiopoides</i>.

*Abaltes trianulalum* Duméril, Bibron, and Duméril, 1854:315.

*Lampropeltis trianulalum* Coe, 1861:225.

*Coronella trianulalum* Coe, 1861:225.

*Ophibolus doliatus trianulalum* Coe, 1875:37.

*Ophibolus doliatus clericus* Coe, 1888:383. See species synonymy.

*Coronella trianulalum* Coe, 1893:1068. Type locality, “De- laware.” Holotype, Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia (ANSP 592), an adult male, date of collection unknown, collected by M. Dresler (examined by the author). This specimen is a <i>L. trianulalum s.l. etiopoides</i>.

*Fide trianulalum* Williams (1978).

*Lampropeltis doliata trianulalum* Coe, 1893:385.

*Oscella doliata trianulalum* Coe, 1900:885.

*Oscella doliata clericus* Coe, 1900:888.

*Ophibolus doliatus collaris* Hay, 1902:90.

*Lampropeltis doliatus clericus* Coe, 1907:181.

*Ophibolusdoliatus trianulalum* Stejneger and Barbour, 1917:89.

**Definition.** This subspecies is characterized by having the first blotch extending onto the head, forming a light colored "Y" or "V"
in its center (usually on nape). The body pattern consists of a dorsal row of large, black-bordered, gray or brown blotches (red in juveniles), usually extending to the 5th or 6th scale on each side, and a ventrolateral row (or two rows) of small, irregularly-shaped blotches on each side, alternating with the dorsal blotches. The dorsal body blotches range in number from 24-37 (x = 30.7). The ventral surface has rectangular black marks, often arranged in checkerboard pattern. Temporals are normally 2 + 5. The dorsal scale rows at midbody usually are 21.

2. Lampropeltis triangulum annulata (Bocourt)


- Definition. This subspecies is characterized by having a broad white band which usually crosses the posterior edge of the internasals and the anterior half of the prefrontals. The black pigment on the head extends from the white snout band to the posterior fourth of the parietals and is complete across the venters. Red and white scales on the dorsum have distinct black tips. The red body rings number from 24-37 (x = 25.0). Temporals usually are 2 + 3. The dorsal scale rows usually are 23 or 21 at midbody.

3. Lampropeltis triangulum amaura (Cope)

Lampropeltis amaura: Cope, 1861a:258. Type-locality, original entry of type reads “Mississippi,” restricted by Schmidt (1853) to the vicinity of New Orleans, Louisiana. Williams (1978) suggested that the type-locality be considered as unknown, inasmuch as the characteristics of the holotype do not agree with data taken from specimens from New Orleans and vicinity. Holotype, National Museum of Natural History (USNM) 5262, an adult male, date of collection, and collector unknown (examined by author).


- Definition. This subspecies is characterized by having a black snout with small amounts of white flecks on the nasals and loreals. The head is black posteriorly. The first black ring usually touches the angle of the jaw or is less than one scale long posteriorly and is complete in a broad straight band across the throat. The red and white scales are not black-tipped. The red body rings number from 19-31 (x = 21.9). The temporals usually are 2 + 5. The dorsal scale rows are 21 at midbody.

4. Lampropeltis triangulum andesiana Williams

Lampropeltis triangulum andesiana: Williams, 1978:231. Type-locality, “the hills near Cali, Valle, Colombia.” Holotype, National Museum of Natural History (USNM) 151732, an adult female collected in the fall of 1982, received by Dr. W.A. Thornton, collector unknown (examined by author).

- Definition. This subspecies is characterized by having a white snout with narrow, black margins on posterior edge of scales. The supralabials are white with black posterior margins. The remainder of the head has black pigment on most of the frontal, supracoculars, and anterior half of the parietals. The first black ring begins on the posterior portion of the parietals or less than one scale length posteriorly. The red scales are unmarked or slightly black-tipped. The white scales are extensively black-tipped. The red body rings number from 24-37 (x = 30.7). Temporals usually are 2 + 3 (occasionally 1 + 2 or 2 + 2). The dorsal scale rows usually are 19 at midbody.

5. Lampropeltis triangulum annulata Kennicott


Lampropeltis triangulum annulata: Klauber, 1948:11.

- Definition. This subspecies is characterized by having a black snout and head. The infralabials are mostly black; the remainder of the throat and chin are white with scattered black flecks. The red rings reach only the lower edge of the first scale row or to the edge of ventrals. The red and white scales are not black-tipped. The red body rings range in number from 14-22 (x = 17.6). Temporals normally are 2 + 3 or 2 + 2. The dorsal scale rows usually are 21 at midbody.

6. Lampropeltis triangulum arcifera Werner

Lampropeltis microbothrus arcifera: Werner, 1903:259. Type-locality, “Mexico.” Williams (1978) considered the restriction to Nacaxa, Puebla, Mexico, by Smith and Taylor (1950) to be incorrect. Holotype, Instituto Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique 9422, an adult female, date of collection and collector unknown (examined by author).


- Definition. This subspecies is characterized by having a black snout with small amounts of white flecks on the nasals and loreals. The head is black posteriorly. The first black ring usually touches the angle of the jaw or is less than one scale long posteriorly and is complete in a broad straight band across the throat. The red and white scales are not black-tipped. The red body rings number from 19-31 (x = 21.9). The temporals usually are 2 + 5. The dorsal scale rows are 21 at midbody.

7. Lampropeltis triangulum blandardi stained


- Definition. This subspecies is characterized by having a black snout and head (pigment completely covering parietals). The chin is usually black. The first black ring frequently connects middorsally to black pigment on the parietals or begins one and one-half to two scale lengths posteriorly. The first black ring is complete ventrally, broadly crossing the throat on small anterior ventrals. The red scales are distinctly black-tipped. Black tipping may be present or absent on the white scales. The red body rings number from 14-21 (x = 17.1). Temporals usually are 2 + 5. The dorsal scale rows are 21-23 at midbody.

8. Lampropeltis triangulum campbelli Quinn

Lampropeltis triangulum campbelli: Quinn, 1983:116. Type-locality, “8.4 km S Zapotitlan, Puebla, Mexico, elevation 1600 m.” Holotype, University of Texas at Arlington Museum (UTAM) #822, a juvenile male collected 23 August 1975 by J.A. Campbell (examined by author).
The temporals normally are not black-tipped. The red rings on the body range from red scales are not or only slightly black-tipped. The white scales are internasals. The remainder of the head is black. The black rings are expanded middorsally, but usually do not cross the red rings. The red rings are black-tipped. The red body rings number from the temporals usually are one and one-half to three scale lengths posterior to the parietals. The first black ring begins one and one-half or more scale lengths posterior to the black snout. The remainder of the head is black posterior to a point behind the parietals. The black rings are normally intact across the venter. The red body rings are usually complete across the venter. The red body rings range in number from 12-22 (x = 16.1). The red and white scales lack black tips. The temporals usually are 1 + 2. The dorsal scale rows are in 19 or 17 rows at midbody.

9. Lampropeltis triangulum celtalops Williams

Lampropeltis pyromelanaema celtalops: Stejneger, 1903:155. Type-locality, “Mesilla Valley, Dona Ana County, New Mexico.” Holotype, National Museum of Natural History (USNM) 22375, an adult male, date of collection unknown, collected by H.B. Lane (examined by author).


Definition. This subspecies is characterized by having a black and white mottled or occasionally a completely black snout. About one-half of the red body bands are incomplete ventrally. The red rings/dots range in number from 2-10 (x = 6.7). Temporals usually are 2 + 3 or 2 + 4. The dorsal scale rows usually are 21 at midbody.

10. Lampropeltis triangulum conanti Williams


Definition. This subspecies is characterized by having a black and white mottled black to the posterior fourth of the parietals. The first black ring is broadly behind the parietals. The first black ring connects to the black pigment on the head middorsally across the white ring, or begins one to one and one-half scale lengths behind the parietals. The first black ring is broadly complete across the venter, usually on two rows of gulars and the anterior ventral. The red body rings number from 17-22 (x = 19.7). The temporals usually are 1 + 2. The dorsal scale rows are in 19 at midbody.

11. Lampropeltis triangulum dixoni Quinn

Lampropeltis triangulum dixoni Quinn, 1968:127. Type-locality, “47 km W Jalpan, Queretaro, Mexico, elevation 625 m.” Holotype, TCWC 29064, an adult female collected 27 July 1969 by G.A. Ketchersid (examined by author).

Definition. This subspecies is characterized by having a black snout with the black ending on the posterior half to fourth of the parietals. The red body bands are short, less than 2 scale lengths long. The red and white bands are not black-tipped. All the red body bands are incomplete ventrally and many are incomplete dorsally. The red body rings range in number from 20-22 (x = 20.8). The temporals are 2 + 3 or 3 + 3. The dorsal scale rows are 21 at midbody.

12. Lampropeltis triangulum elapsoides Holbrook


Definition. This subspecies is characterized by having a black snout with white pigmentation forming a rather indiscernible mottled band that involves various portions of the internasals, most of the prefrontals, and the anterior edge of the frontal. The black bands cross the head and are interrupted by the white mottled regions. The red body rings are not or only slightly black-tipped. The red scales are not or only slightly black-tipped. The red rings on the body range from 14-22 (x = 16.8). About one-half of the red body bands are incomplete ventrally. The temporals normally are 2 + 3 (less commonly 3 + 3 or 2 + 4). The dorsal scale rows are 21 or 23 at midbody.
16. Lampropeltis triangulum micropholis Cope

*Lampropeltis micropholis* Cope, 1861a:257. Type-locality, “Panama.” Holotype, Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia (ANSP) 3427, a young male, date of collection unknown, collected by J.L. Leconte (not examined by author). Dunn (1937) presented adequate reasons for accepting ANSP 3427 as the holotype.

*Coronella doliata* formastrata Jan and Sordelli, 1865:45, pl. 4, fig. “B.” Type-locality unknown. Holotype unknown, not at Viennna as indicated by Blanchard (1921).


*Ophibolus doliatus* polyzonus, Cope, 1887:78.


*Lampropeltis triangulum micropholis* Dunn and Bailey, 1939:18.

*Lampropeltis doliata* micropholis, Klauber, 1948:11.

- **Definition.** This subspecies is characterized by having a white snout with narrow black scale margins, usually on anterior and posterior margins. The supralabials usually are white with black posterior margins. The remainder of the head is black to the middle or posterior third of the parietals. The first black ring begins one-half to three scales behind the parietals. The red scales are unmarked to moderately black-tipped. The white scales are heavily black-tipped. The red body rings number from 10-18 (r = 13.8). The temporals usually are 1-2. The dorsal scale rows are 21 at midbody.

17. Lampropeltis triangulum multistriata Cope, 1861:238.

*Lampropeltis multistriata* Cope, 1861:328. Type-locality, “Fort Lookout, Nebraska,” now in Lorrance County, South Dakota. Holotype, National Museum of Natural History (USNM) 1842, a young male, date of collection unknown, collected by L. Warren and F.V. Hayden (examined by author).

*Lampropeltis multistriata* Cope, 1861b:566 (Cope noted that the *multistriata* of the original description is a misprint for *mullistrata*).

*Ophibolus multistriatus*, Cope, 1875:56.

*Coronella multistriata*, Werner, 1892:129.

*Lampropeltis doliata* multistriata, Tanner and Loomis, 1957:12.


- **Definition.** This subspecies is characterized by having a light cream-colored snout mottled with black (occasionally flecked with orange). The head has black pigment on the parietals and the posterior edges of the frontals and supralabials. The first black ring is incomplete, not crossing the venter. The red (or orangish) blotches or incomplete blotches range in number on the body from 22-52 (r = 27.1). The midventral surface usually is pale or possesses a few scattered black marks. The overall amount of black pigment on the body is reduced in comparison to adjacent subspecies. The temporals usually are 2 or 3 or 2-2. The dorsal scale rows are 21 at midbody.

18. Lampropeltis triangulum neotsu Blanchard

*Lampropeltis triangulum neotsu* Blanchard, 1920:a:5. Type-locality, “Acuambro, Guanajuato, Mexico.” Holotype, National Museum of Natural History (USNM) 46552, an adult male collected in October 1892 by E.W. Nelson (examined by author).

*Lampropeltis triangulum schmidtii* Stuart, 1995a:1. Type-locality, “Tres Marias Islands, Mexico.” Holotype, British Museum (BMNH) 81.10.1.97, an adult male, date of collection unknown, collected by Mr. Forrer (examined by author).


- **Definition.** This subspecies is characterized by having a white snout from mid-prefrontals anteriorly; a small amount of scattered black pigment may be present. The remainder of the head is black. The first black ring usually is more than one scale length posterior to the angle of the jaw, and generally is incomplete or narrowly connected across the throat. The red and white scales are not black-tipped. The red body rings range in number from 13-18 (r = 16.0). The temporals usually are 2 or 3. The dorsal scale rows are 21 or 25 at midbody.

19. Lampropeltis triangulum oligozona Boucourt

*Coronella formosa* oligozona Boucourt, 1886:614. Type-locality, “Tehuantepc” and “western slopes of Guatemala.” The type-locality was restricted to Tehuantepec by Smith and Taylor (1950). Synotypes, Museum National d’Histoire Naturelle (MNHN) 6083, 11:26-128 (total of 5 specimens; all examined by author).

*Williams* (1978) designated MNHN 6083, an adult male, as lectotype, date of collection unknown, F. Sumichrast, collector.

*Lampropeltis triangulum oligozona* Smith, 1942:201.


- **Definition.** This subspecies is characterized by having a black snout. The remainder of the head is black to the posterior edge of the parietals. The first black ring begins one-half to three scale lengths posterior to the parietals and is complete across the venter, usually on two rows of gular scales. The red and white scales are distinctly black-tipped. The white rings occasionally are obliterated by black pigment. The red rings number from 10-16 (r = 12.5). Temporals usually are 2-3. The dorsal scale rows are 21-23 at midbody.

20. Lampropeltis triangulum polyzona Cope

*Lampropeltis polyzona* Cope, 1861a:258. Type-locality, “Cuatupe, near Jalapa, Veracruz, Mexico.” Holotype, Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia (ANSP) 9770, an adult male, date and collector unknown (not examined by author).

*Ophibolus polyzona*, Cope, 1871:162.

*Coronella formosa polyzona*, Bocourt, 1886:615.

*Ophibolus doliatus polyzonus*, Cope, 1887:78 (part).

*Coronella micropholis*, Boulenger, 1894:205 (part).


*Coronella micropholis*, Gadow, 1911:117.

*Lampropeltis polyzona* polyzonus, Stuart, 1935b:32.


- **Definition.** This subspecies is characterized by having a narrow pale band on the snout, which crosses on or near the prefrontal-internal nasal border or with white on the first supralabial and posterior segment of the nasal, often extending onto the lateral edge of the prefrontal-internal nasal margin. The remainder of the head is black. The first four infralabials often are black. The first black ring generally begins on the parietals or not more than one-half scale length posteriorly. A large black blotch or blotches usually occur ventrally in the red rings, but rarely separate them. The red body rings number from 15-25 (r = 19.1). The red scales are heavily black-tipped. The white scales are often nearly obscured by black pigment. Temporals usually are 2-5. The dorsal scale rows usually are 23 or 21 at midbody.

21. Lampropeltis triangulum sinaloae Williams


- **Definition.** This subspecies is characterized by having a black head and snout with varying amounts of white mottling on the rostral, internasals, nasals, and loreals. The first black ring touches the angle of the jaw or is positioned less than one scale length posteriorly. The first black ring crosses the throat, forming a "V." The red rings are complete around the body with only scattered amounts of black pigment ventrally. The red and white bands are not long. The black body rings are two or two and one-half scales long, shortening to one and one-half to two laterally. All the rings are complete around the body. The last two red rings on the tail are obscured by black pigment. The red body rings range from 10-16 (r = 12.5) with scattered black pigment midventrally. The red and white scales are not black-tipped. Temporals usually are 2 or 3. The dorsal scale rows are 21 at midbody.

22. Lampropeltis triangulum smitbi Williams

*Lampropeltis triangulum smitbi* Williams, 1978:159. Type-locality, “the Xilitla region, San Luis Potosi, Mexico.” Holotype, Louisiana State University Museum of Zoology (LSUMZ) 274, an adult male, purchased on 5 May 1947 by M. Newman from a native collector (examined by author).
• Definition. This subspecies is characterized by having a black and white snout, with the anterior portions of the internasals, prefrontals, nasals, loreals, and precoculars white, and the posterior portions black. The supra- and infralabials also have white anterior edges and black posterior edges. The first black ring usually begins on the posterior tip of the parietals or 1 scale length posteriorly. The red rings are complete around the body, with black pigment usually scattered ventrally. The red body rings number from 19-29 (x = 22.8). The red and white scales are moderately black-tipped. The temporals usually are 2 + 2 or 2 + 3. The dorsal scale rows are 21 at midbody.

23. Lampropeltis triangulum stuarti Williams

Lampropeltis triangulum stuarti Williams, 1976:217. Type-locality, “Finca Los Cedros (100 m), Toca, Departamento La Libertad, El Salvador.” Holotype, Natur-Museum and Forchungs-Institut “Senckenberg” #5106, an adult female collected on 17 October 1950 by E. Fischer and R. Mertens (examined by author).

• Definition. This subspecies is characterized by having a black snout with a narrow, white band usually forming a “V.” The remainder of head is black. The first black ring begins at the posterior edge of the parietals or one to two scale lengths posteriorly. The first black ring usually touches the angle of the jaw and is complete across the throat on the snout and head cap, sometimes occasionally reaching the edge of the parietals or one to two scale lengths posteriorly. The first black ring usually is black-tipped. The white scales are moderately black-tipped. The white scales usually are moderately black-tipped. The red body rings number from 19-28 (x = 22.8). Temporals usually are 2 + 3. The dorsal scale rows are 21 at midbody.

24. Lampropeltis triangulum syspila (Cope)

Opheodrys doliusyspila Cope, 1888:381. Type-locality, “Richland County, Illinois.” Holotype, National Museum of Natural History (USNM) 13380, an adult male, date of collection unknown, collected by R. Ridgway (examined by the author).


Lampropeltis triangulum syspila: Cope, 1909:3.

• Definition. This subspecies is characterized by having a red snout and head cap, sometimes with scattered black flecks or with a dark chevron on the posterior edge of the prefrontals. A black band occurs on the posterior portion of the parietals or the parietals may be covered almost entirely with black pigment. A single row of black-bordered red dorsal blotches reaches the first scale row on each side, occasionally reaching the edge of the ventrals. A ventrolateral row of small, alternating blotches may occur on each side, usually involving the first scale row and the edge of the ventrals, when present. The red body blotches range from 16-31 (x = 23.8). Temporals usually are 2 + 2 or 2 + 3. The dorsal scale rows usually are 21 at midbody.

25. Lampropeltis triangulum taylori Tanner and Loosmi


Lampropeltis triangulum syspila: Cope, 1909:3.

• Definition. This subspecies is characterized by having a black snout or pale snout with black on the medial margins of the prefrontals and internasals. The red rings are separated ventrally by black pigment. The black pigment frequently crosses the red rings mid dorsally. The red blotches range in number from 23-34 (x = 29.1). The temporals normally are 2 + 3 or 2 + 2. The dorsal scale rows normally are 21 at midbody.

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