

THE SNAKE, *HALDEA STRIATULA* IN KANSAS

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In the course of field trips into the southeastern corner of Kansas during the past three years my students and I have seen five specimens of *Haldea striatula*. While this little snake has been taken in nearby parts of both Missouri and Oklahoma, this is believed to be the first record of its occurrence in Kansas. All specimens were found under small flat rocks near the tops of hillsides, three near the Spring River three miles East of Crestline, one from four miles north of Galena, and one from two miles north of Baxter Springs, all in Cherokee County. Two escaped and the other three were examined. One of these was taken April 19, 1935 and two March 28, 1936.

All three agree rather closely with Cope's description. (U. S. Nat. Mus., Ann. Rep., 1898: 1009, f. 272, 1900). All have 17 scale rows, with the scales near the dorsal midline very narrow and strongly keeled and with those of the outer row noticeably wider with keels practically obsolete. There is one internasal, one postocular, 5 upper labials with the third and fourth entering into the orbit, and 6 lower labials with the fourth and fifth much larger. The very long loreal lies above the second and third labials and forms, together with the prefrontal, the front part of the orbit. Two specimens have the anal divided; the third apparently so but with the divisions not separable. The ventrals and caudals are respectively 120-49, 121-48, and 117-48. The color is an even brownish gray above, and white (faint salmon pink in life) underneath.