
Larry David Wilson¹
Josiah H. Townsend²,⁶
T. Lynette Plenderleith¹
Brooke L. Talley⁴
Douglas C. Fraser⁵

¹Department of Biology, Miami Dade College, Kendall Campus, Miami, Florida 33176, USA
²Tropical Conservation and Development Program, Center for Latin American Studies, and Division of Herpetology, Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida 32611, USA
³18, Northmead, Ledbury, Herefordshire, HR8 1BE, United Kingdom
⁴Department of Environmental Engineering Sciences, Howard T. Odum Center for Wetlands, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida 32611, USA
⁵No. 6, Braes of Allachy, Aberlour, Banffshire, Scotland, AB38, 9PY
⁶Corresponding author: jtownsend@flmnh.ufl.edu

*Rhadina montecristi* Mertens is a small terrestrial snake that has previously been reported to occur in the highlands of southeastern Guatemala, northwestern El Salvador, and southwestern Honduras (McCranie and Wilson 1991, Smith and Campbell 1994, Campbell 2005) (Figure 1). This snake is found in both disturbed and undisturbed cloud forests in the Lower Montane Moist Forest and Lower Montane Wet Forest formations (after Holdridge 1967) between 1300 and 2620 m elevation (McCranie and Wilson 1991).

On the morning of 18 August 2005, an adult male *Rhadinia montecristi* (UF 144648; Figure 2) was collected as it crawled on the ground near a campsite (15°30’47”N 88°14’29”W) at 1780 m elevation in the core zone of Parque Nacional El Cuscuco, Depto. Cortés, Honduras (photograph by B.L. Talley). This specimen represents a range extension for this species of approximately 75 km north from the closest known locality, at Quebrada Grande, Depto. Copán (Wilson and Meyer 1985), and represents the first record of this species from Parque Nacional El Cuscuco, the Sierra de Omoa, and Depto. Cortés. This specimen agrees with the descriptions of scutellation and color pattern provided by Wilson and Meyer (1985) and McCranie and Wilson (1991), and has 19 scale rows at midbody, 164 ventrals, and 83 subcaudals (247 ventrals + subcaudals).

![Figure 1](image1)

Figure 1. Map showing the known distribution of *Rhadinia montecristi*. Empty square = type locality; empty diamond = new locality reported in this paper; closed squares = previous records.

![Figure 2](image2)

Figure 2. *Rhadinia montecristi* (UF 144648) from Cantiles, Parque Nacional El Cuscuco, Depto. Cortés, Honduras (photograph by B.L. Talley).
NOTES ON GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Acknowledgments
Fieldwork was carried out as part of the Operation Wallacea Honduras Forests Project. Research and collection was conducted under permit DAPVS–006–2004, as resolved under GG–MP–028–2004, issued by AFE–COHDEFOR, Tegucigalpa, Honduras. We thank Conrado González, Martha Moreno, and Ibrahim Padilla of AFE–COHDEFOR for assisting us with obtaining this permit as well as export permits. Roberto Downing M. also assisted us in obtaining export permits.

Literature Cited


Received November 2005
Accepted February 2006
Published online February 2006