

**TYPHLOPS BRONGERSMAI SPEC. NOV. FROM THE COAST  
OF BAHIA, BRASIL (SERPENTES, TYPHLOPIDAE)**

by

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With one text-figure

It is a pleasure to name the following species after Dr. L. D. Brongersma, both for his valuable contributions to herpetology, and for his unfailing kindness and courtesy in assisting his colleagues from the underdeveloped countries.

***Typhlops brongersmai* spec. nov. (fig. 1)**

Holotype. — Museu de Zoologia da Universidade de S. Paulo, snake collection, no. 5218, Barra de Itaipé, Ilheus, Bahia, 14 December, 1968, E. E. Williams and P. E. Vanzolini coll.

Diagnosis. — Inter-nasal suture incomplete; 20 scale rows at midbody; 216 dorsal scales; dorsal pattern of light brown background with rows of darker spots.

Head rounded, without deeply incised sutures; snout thick. Body stocky; rostro-anal length 207 mm; tail 7 mm; diameter at midbody 9 mm, thus nearly 24 times in total length. Tail spine small, conical.

Dorsal aspect of head: rostral moderate, about one third as wide as the head at eye level, almost perfectly elliptical in dorsal view, reaching the level of the front margin of the ocular. Frontal broad, followed by 4 broadened scales, 2 on the midline, one on each side. Eye well developed, dorsolateral, on the antero-superior corner of a large ocular scale. Preocular and nasal reaching a little behind the level of the posterior end of the rostral.

Lateral aspect of head: nostrils lateral. Nasal scale in broad contact with the first and second labials; the internasal suture starts on the upper margin of the second labial, runs through the nostril and ends in a small pit, without reaching the rostral. Three upper labials, the third the largest. Preocular large, with strongly arcuate front margin. Five or six lower labials.

Ventral aspect of head: a very small subrostral scale. Rostral moderately constricted. Symphyisial very small. Chin scales larger than body scales.

Dorsals 204 from the enlarged cephalic scales to the level of the anus; 12 scales from this point to the tip of the tail. Scale rows 20 near the head, 20 at midbody and 18 near the anus.

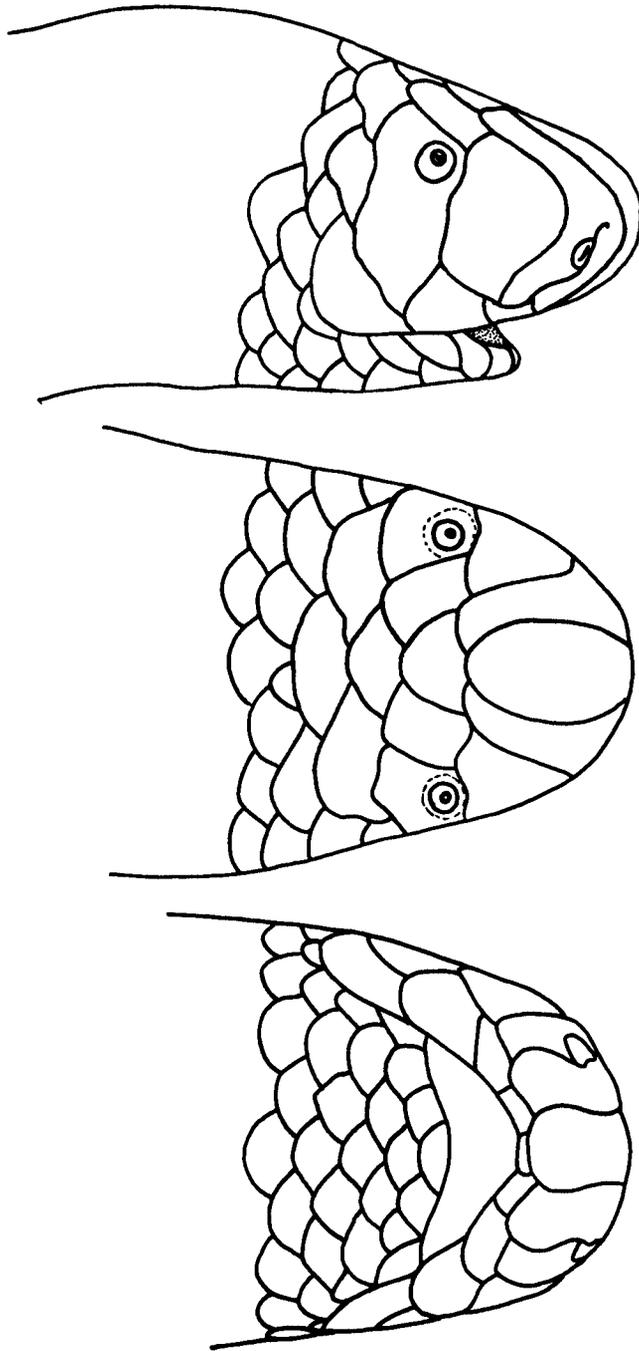


Fig. 1. *Typhlops brongersmai* spec. nov. From top to bottom: head on lateral, dorsal and ventral view.

General ground colour of dorsum light brown, reticulated, the reticulations formed by fan-shaped spots, usually overlapping two adjacent scales. Snout lighter, with dilute brown markings that mimic the scale pattern, but do not coincide with it. Pattern on posterior part of body bolder. Underparts immaculate light tan; the transition between the ventral and dorsal patterns occupies one or two scale rows. Tail spine dirty whitish.

#### DISCUSSION

This species seems to be closest to *Typhlops reticulatus*, especially with regard to the cephalic scutellation, and to the number of scale rows (20-20-18). The most important differences are the colour pattern and the number of dorsals.

The colour pattern of *T. reticulatus* is bold, the dorsum being dark brown or lustrous black, and the belly tan. The transition between the two areas is sharp, as there are no part-coloured scales. On the head and tail there are blotches of the contrasting colours (Beebe, 1946: pl. 1 figs. 2 and 3). The present species, on the contrary, shows series of fan-shaped spots below the scales.

As to the number of body annuli, I cite the data on some specimens of *T. reticulatus* in our collection:

Number	Locality	Dorsal scales
3718	Costa do Marrecão, Rio Solimões, Amazonas	287
3733	Utinga, Belém, Pará	262
3133	Rio Teles Pires, Mato Grosso	277
4440	Corumbá, Mato Grosso	279

Field data. — The present specimen was collected on the ocean beach, inside a rotting log of a coconut palm.

#### REFERENCE

- BEEBE, W., 1946. Field notes on the snakes of Kartabo, British Guiana, and Caripito, Venezuela. — *Zoologica* (New York), 31 (1): 11-52, 13 pls.