

Crotalus atrox, B. & G.—Head subtriangular. Plates on head ; 2 anterior frontals in contact, between these and superciliaries, on side of the crown, 2 imbricated plates. Space enclosed occupied by smaller scales. Superciliaries bordered by a row of larger scales; the anterior much largest. Three rows of scales between labials and suborbitals. Labials 16 above; 1st, 5th, and 7th largest;—15 below, 1st and 3d largest. Dorsal rows 25-27: 2 exterior rows smooth. On the tail 3-6 half rings. Color yellowish brown, with a continuous succession of dorsal lozenges, sometimes truncate before and behind; intervals all narrow. A single transverse light line on superciliary. Stripe from superciliary directly to the angle of the mouth. General style of coloration somewhat as in *C. adamanteus*. Groundcolor above dull yellowish brown, with a series of subhexagonal patches from the head nearly to the tail, in an uninterrupted series, separated throughout by narrow lines. "We may refer the markings to the intersection of two series of light yellowish lines, about 40 in number, crossing obliquely from each side across to the other, along the anterior half of as many oblique series of scales. The lateral decussation is along the sixth row of dorsal scales; on the back, where they cross, the lines are confluent for a breadth of five or six scales, making a series of transverse lines across the back, truncating the obtuse angles of the rhomboids, which would otherwise be produced. Sometimes the acute lateral angle of the rhomboids are also truncated. Laterally, the yellowish lines are more or less obsolete, leaving a more or less distinct chain pattern. The rhomboids or subrhomboids enclosed have a narrow margin of dark brown, lighter toward the centre. In all cases the interval between the successive rhomboids is but one or two half scales in width. The lateral rhomboids and triangles referred to in *C. adamanteus* are indicated by two alternating series of dark brown blotches, the first along the 3d and 4th lateral row, opposite the apices of the rhomboids ; the second along the 6th and 7th, and alternating with the same; the spots occupy one scale, or part of four contiguous ones. Space between these rhomboids and the yellowish lines, dull yellowish brown. Beneath nearly uniform yellowish, slightly clouded on the sides of the scales. On the tail the blotches are confluent into 3 or 6 dark brown half rings, interrupted on the under surface. General distribution of lines on the head much as in *C. adamanteus* ; a narrow light line from the posterior end of the superciliary backward, directly to the angle of the mouth ; a second from the anterior extremity, nearly parallel with the first, the two enclosing an indistinct patch, and separated on the labials by $4\frac{1}{2}$ scales. There is also a single narrow light line across the superciliary perpendicular to its length, obsolete in old specimens. It may readily be distinguished from *C. adamanteus* by its light color and the truncations of the rhomboids, as well as the general obsolescence of the lateral markings. The rhomboids are longer in proportion and more rounded. The two lateral rows of scales are smooth, the next two more strongly carinated than in *C. adamanteus*. The 5th upper labial is largest, and transverse ; the rest nearly uniform. The stripes on the side of the head are less distinct. From *C. confluentus*, it may be distinguished by the greater comparative size of the interval between the dorsal blotches, especially posteriorly. In *C. confluentus*, there are two light lines across the superciliary plate, dividing it into three sections, the central rather narrower. Here, too, the posterior facial stripe, instead of passing to the angle of the mouth, goes back of it on the 2d row above the labials, in *C. atrox*, passing directly to the angle of the mouth. Other important distinctions are seen in the narrower scales of *C. confluentus*, &c.

From *C. lucifer*, the more narrow head, fewer and larger intersuperciliary scales, lighter color, arrangement of color along the head, will at once distinguish it.