

SYNOPSIS OF THE REPTILES AND BATRACHIANS OF ARIZONA;

WITH CRITICAL AND FIELD NOTES, AND AN EXTENSIVE SYNONYMY.

BY

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Caudisona lucifer, (Bel. & Gir.) Cope. Black Rattlesnake

Crotulus lucifer, BD. & GIR., Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., vi, 1852, 177. J7., Cat.

N. A. Re.pt., 1853, G. GIR., U. S. Exp. Exped., 1858, 187, pi. 15, figs.

1-0. BD., P. R. R. Rep., x, 1859, Williamson's & Abbott's Route, Reptiles,
10, pi. 11. COOP. & SUCKL., Nat. Hist. Wash. Terr., 1860, 295. COPE,
Check-List, 1875, 33.

Caudisona lucifer, COPE, Mitchell's Res., 1861, 121. Id., Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila.,
1806, 307, 309.

Head short, broad, and deep, with much rounded angles ; snout less pointed than in *C. confluenta*. Labials 1516 above and below; dorsal rows, 25. A dorsal series of brown blotches not margined with white ; two small irregular lateral series on each side. Posteriorly, 15-20 half-rings, becoming blackish in old specimens. Light stripe from orbit below superciliary to angle of jaw above labials. Light stripe before eye expanding upon the whole of the upper labials and front and sides of face below crown and in front of orbits. Single light transverse line on superciliaries often obsolete. Rostral not edged with lighter. - (Kennicott.) Rattle parallelogrammic; rostral elevated, narrow, cuneiform ; muzzle with two marginal shields above each canthus rostralis, and numerous small plates above. - (Cope.*)

Originally described from Oregon, as above. This species was subsequently found in California, and later its range was shown to include Arizona by Dr. B. J. D. Irwin, U. S. A., and myself.

My numerous specimens from Arizona are nearly black, especially on the head, differing so decidedly from the Oregon type as to probably warrant varietal distinction of this southern form, which may be called *C. lucifer* var. *cerberus*.

Nos. 509, 511, and others, my collection, from the San Francisco Mountains, July, 1864.

This species was found associated with *C. confluenta* in Northern and Central Arizona, where it is abundant. The great size to which it attains, the caliber of the body, and black color combine to render it peculiarly repulsive. An unusual degree of virulence is attributed by backwoodsmen to the "Black Rattlesnake", but probably without foundation.