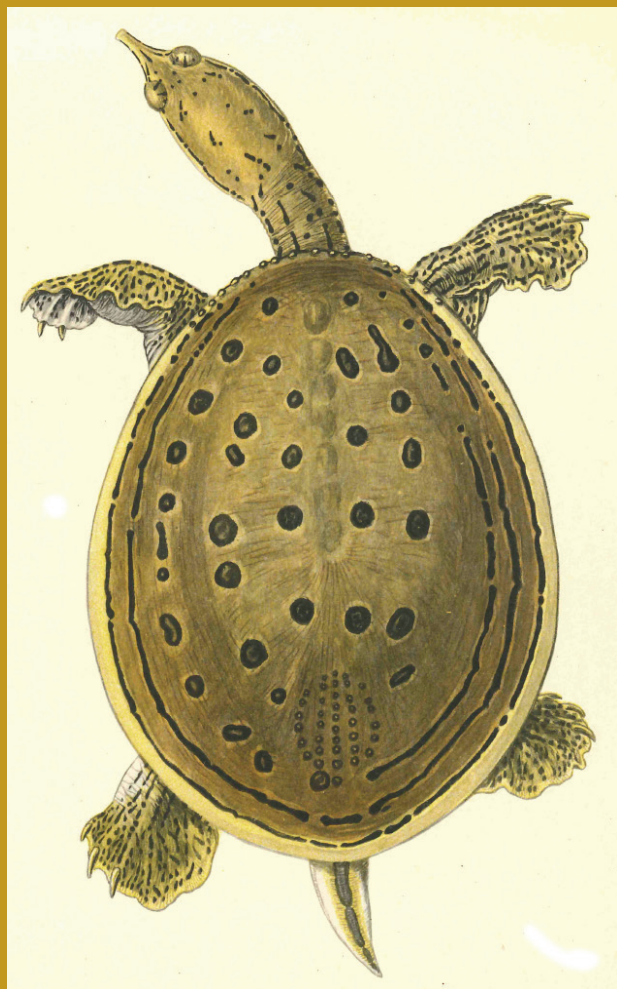


**SCIENTIFIC AND STANDARD ENGLISH
NAMES OF AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES
OF NORTH AMERICA NORTH OF MEXICO, WITH
COMMENTS REGARDING CONFIDENCE
IN OUR UNDERSTANDING**

EIGHTH EDITION



Committee On Standard English And Scientific Names
Brian I. Crother (Committee Chair)

Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles

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Cover Illustration: Spiny Softshell from Babcock. 1919. Turtles of New England. This species has gone through 3 generic name changes from *Amyda* to *Trionyx* to *Apalone* over the last 60 years.

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Herpetol. 37: 145–154) identified three mitochondrial DNA lineages separated by the Appalachian and Allegheny Mountain ranges that did not correspond with the classic arrangement of subspecies within *C. horridus*.

C. lepidus (Kennicott, 1861)—Rock Rattlesnake

C. l. klauberi Gloyd, 1936—Banded Rock Rattlesnake

C. l. lepidus (Kennicott, 1861)—Mottled Rock Rattlesnake

C. molossus Baird and Girard, 1853—Western Black-tailed Rattlesnake

The northern populations of this species were examined in detail using a multi-locus nuclear dataset (Anderson and Greenbaum, 2013; Herpetol. Monogr. 26: 19–57), supporting recognition of *C. molossus* for populations west of the Cochise Filter Barrier (from the Sonoran Desert west), and *C. ornatus* for eastern populations (from Chihuahuan Desert east), with a narrow contact zone.

C. oreganus Holbrook, 1840—Western Rattlesnake

Pook et al. (2000, Mol. Phylogenet. Evol. 15: 269–282), Ashton and de Queiroz (2001, Mol. Phylogenet. Evol. 21: 176–189), and Douglas et al. (2002, Biology of the Vipers, Schuett et al.[eds.] Eagle Mountain Publishing) analyzed mtDNA sequence data and concluded that *Crotalus viridis* comprised at least two clades, *C. viridis* and *C. oreganus*, with *C. cerberus* being the sister taxon to populations of *C. oreganus*. The former two studies did not formally recognize *C. cerberus* as a species, although both suggested that it was distinct based on sequence differences and allopatry. The latter study did recognize *C. cerberus* as well as four other taxa. Although the studies relied on the same locus, we conservatively conclude that the congruence among all three studies might suggest the recognition of *C. viridis*, *C. oreganus* and *C. cerberus*. A recent unpublished study (Goldenberg, 2013; MS Dissertation, San Diego State Univ., 90 pp.) suggests a unique lineage, that has not yet been named, occurs in the southern part of the nominate species' range, and that the subspecies as currently recognized do not correspond with the actual species-level divergences in the group.

C. o. abyssus Klauber, 1930—Grand Canyon Rattlesnake

C. o. concolor Woodbury, 1929—Midget Faded Rattlesnake

C. o. helleri Meek, 1906 “1905”—Southern Pacific Rattlesnake

C. o. lutosus Klauber, 1930—Great Basin Rattlesnake

C. o. oreganus Holbrook, 1840—Northern Pacific Rattlesnake

C. ornatus Hallowell, 1854—Eastern Black-tailed Rattlesnake

See note under entry for *C. molossus*

C. pricei Van Denburgh, 1895—Twin-spotted Rattlesnake

C. p. pricei Van Denburgh, 1895—Western Twin-spotted Rattlesnake

C. pyrrhus (Cope, 1867 “1866”)—Southwestern Speckled Rattlesnake

Meik et al. (2015, PLoS ONE 10(6): e0131435. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0131435), using multilocus sequence and phenotypic data, demonstrated that *C. pyrrhus* is a species distinct from *C. mitchellii* of Baja California.

C. ruber Cope, 1892—Red Diamond Rattlesnake

The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature (2000, Bull. Zool. Nomencl. 57: 189–190. Opinion 1960) has ruled that the name *Crotalus ruber* Cope 1892 takes precedence over *C. exsul* Garman 1884 when used as a specific epithet.

C. scutulatus (Kennicott, 1861)—Mohave Rattlesnake

The spelling of the word “Mojave” or “Mohave” has been a subject of debate. Lowe, in the preface to his *Venomous Reptiles of Arizona* (1986), argued for “Mohave” as did Campbell and Lamar (2004, *The Venomous Reptiles of the Western Hemisphere*,

Comstock Publishing). According to linguistic experts on Native American languages, either spelling is correct, but using either the “j” or “h” is based on whether the word is used in a Spanish or English context. Given that this is an English names list, we use the “h” spelling (P. Munro, Linguistics, UCLA, *pers. comm.*). Jones (2016, *Sonoran Herpetol.* 29: 64–71) argued that the spelling should be with “j” but the committee was not convinced and voted to continue to spell it as Mohave.

C. s. scutulatus (Kennicott, 1861)—Northern Mohave Rattlesnake

The English name of the nominal subspecies has been changed to reflect the distribution rather than describe rattlesnakes from a small portion of its distribution (D. Hardy and H. Greene, *pers. comm.*).

C. stephensi Klauber, 1930—Panamint Rattlesnake

Elevated to species by Douglas et al. (2007, *Copeia* 2007: 920–932).

C. tigris Kennicott, in Baird, 1859—Tiger Rattlesnake

C. viridis (Rafinesque, 1818)—Prairie Rattlesnake

See comments under *C. oreganus*. Douglas et al. (2002, *Biology of the Vipers*, Schuett et al [eds.] Eagle Mountain Press) synonymized *C. v. nuntius* with *C. v. viridis*.

C. willardi Meek, 1906, “1905”—Ridge-nosed Rattlesnake

Barker (2016, in Schuett et al. [eds] *Rattlesnakes of Arizona*. ECO Publishing)

recommended elevating the five subspecies of *C. willardi* to species, which we do not follow until data are available for evaluation.

C. w. obscurus Harris and Simmons, 1976—New Mexico Ridge-nosed Rattlesnake

C. w. willardi Meek, 1906, “1905”—Arizona Ridge-nosed Rattlesnake

Diadophis Baird and Girard, 1853—RING-NECKED SNAKES

D. punctatus (Linnaeus, 1766)—Ring-necked Snake

Numerous data suggest that more than one lineage exists (Blanchard, 1942, *Bull. Chicago Acad. Sci.* 7: 1–144; Gehlbach, 1974, *Herpetologica* 30: 140–148; Pinou et al., 1995, *J. Herpetol.* 29: 105–110; Feldman and Spicer, 2006, *Mol. Ecol.* 15: 2201–2222). Using mitochondrial data sampled from specimens across their range, Fontanella et al. (2008, *Mol. Phylogenet. Evol.* 46: 1049–1070) found at least 14 lineages that do not follow the geographic range of the subspecies, and may be independently evolving taxa. While *D. punctatus* may be divided into several species in the near future, we refrain from making any changes at present. Evidence to synonymize the various races into a single species has been poorly presented, and our arrangement follows the traditional subspecies groupings.

D. p. acricus Paulson, 1968—Key Ring-necked Snake

D. p. amabilis Baird and Girard, 1853—Pacific Ring-necked Snake

D. p. arnyi Kennicott, 1859—Prairie Ring-necked Snake

D. p. edwardsii (Merrem, 1820)—Northern Ring-necked Snake

D. p. modestus Bocourt, 1886—San Bernardino Ring-necked Snake

D. p. occidentalis Blanchard, 1923—Northwestern Ring-necked Snake

D. p. pulchellus Baird and Girard, 1853—Coral-bellied Ring-necked Snake

D. p. punctatus (Linnaeus, 1766)—Southern Ring-necked Snake

D. p. regalis Baird and Girard, 1853—Regal Ring-necked Snake