

noted ornithologist A. C. Bent, to spend several weeks collecting and observing bird life.

Crotalus willardi was described in a 1905 publication by Seth Meek, Assistant Curator of Zoology at the Field Museum. Although Meek was best known for ichthyological studies, over his career he published a number of papers on amphibians and reptiles, including several on Western U.S. species, such as the aforementioned 1905 publication that described *Crotalus willardi* and *Crotalus viridis helleri*, the Southern Pacific rattlesnake. Meek's description of the Ridge-nosed rattlesnake cited Tombstone as the type locality. H. S. Swarth of the University of California, recognizing that the locality was likely in error, wrote to Willard to check. He was informed that a more precise locality for the specimen was the Huachucas and that Willard recollected finding it "a short distance above Hamburg in the middle branch of Ramsey Canyon." Swarth published this correction in *Copeia* in 1921.

Hence this small, attractive, difficult-to-find rattlesnake found a name and a type locality. The celebrity that it gained for rarity now seems less deserved as this little rattlesnake of the oak woodlands is not nearly as uncommon as Kaufield believed. Nevertheless, an encounter with a Ridge-nosed rattlesnake will likely remain a great thrill for any modern-day herper. It still is for John Porter, and he has seen more that anyone else that I know.

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CAN A SNAKE WALK?

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Six modes of snake locomotion have been described (Cundall 1987), two of which (lateral undulation and slide pushing) have no static points of contact with the substrate, whereas static contact occurs with the other four (rectilinear, concertina, sidewinding and saltation). Herein we report a fifth type of static locomotion.

On the evening of 29 May 2002, the authors encountered a 40-cm Western diamond-backed rattlesnake (*Crotalus atrox*) stretched out on Apache Pass Rd., Cochise County, AZ. As we approached the animal on foot it loosely coiled its body. We noticed loose folds of skin on the sides of the body, which indicated that the specimen might be emaciated and/or dehydrated. Considering that southern Arizona was in the midst of a severe drought, the authors decided to offer the snake some water by pouring small amounts of it on the animal's dorsum. When the water came in contact with it, the snake drew its body into a tighter basket-shaped coil. We had expected it to begin drinking water droplets from the top of its body because rattlesnakes have been observed to drink water in this manner in captivity. Instead, the snake retreated from us in novel fashion. Maintaining the tight coils, it wobbled away from us by alternately pushing off with the left and right sides of the body coil in contact with the ground. As one side contacted the ground the other was lifted slightly and pulled backwards. It appeared that only two zones of contact occurred during this unidirectional motion, which appeared deliberate and was repeated for several 'steps' until the snake had moved several feet away from us. The snake directly faced us during this process. This motion appeared to us to be as close as a limbless vertebrate can come to walking.

Literature cited

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