



## Notes on distribution, variation and characterization of *Erythrolamprus pseudocorallus* Roze, 1959 (Serpentes: Colubridae) with the first records from Colombia

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### Abstract

The Maracaibo false coral snake *Erythrolamprus pseudocorallus*, previously known only from Venezuela, is recorded from five departments in Colombia. These new data include the westernmost and the southernmost records presently known for the species. Two specimens previously identified as *E. aesculapii*, from the localities of El Valle, Distrito Federal, Venezuela, and Yarumal, Antioquia, Colombia, are now attributed to *E. pseudocorallus*, the first one representing the northeasternmost record of the species. Morphological characterization of *E. pseudocorallus* is expanded based on the new specimens.

**Key words:** Maracaibo false coral snake, new records, range extension, South America

### Resumen

La serpiente “falsa coral de Maracaibo” *Erythrolamprus pseudocorallus*, previamente conocida solamente de Venezuela, es registrada en cinco departamentos de Colombia, incluyendo los registros más hacia el oeste y hacia el sur conocidos actualmente para esta especie. Dos especímenes previamente identificados como *E. aesculapii*, provenientes de El Valle, Distrito Federal, Venezuela y Yarumal, Antioquia, Colombia, son asignados a *E. pseudocorallus*, el primero representando el registro más hacia el noreste de la especie. Con base en estos nuevos especímenes, se amplía la caracterización morfológica de *E. pseudocorallus*.

### Introduction

As presently understood, the genus *Erythrolamprus* Boie (Serpentes; Xenodontinae) includes six species of false coral snakes that occur in Central and South America, and also in the Caribbean islands of Trinidad and Tobago (Roze, 1959a, 1966; Peters & Orejas-Miranda, 1970; Cunha & Nascimento, 1980; Hardy & Boos, 1995; Boos, 2001). In Colombia, the genus is represented by the taxa *E. aesculapii aesculapii* (Linnaeus), *E. bizona* Jan and *E. mimus micrurus* Dunn & Bailey (Peters & Orejas-Miranda, 1970; Pérez-Santos & Moreno, 1988; Sánchez *et al.*, 1995).

Roze (1959a) described *E. pseudocorallus* (Maracaibo false coral snake) from the state of Zulia, Venezuela, and reported its occurrence in highlands next to Maracaibo and Perijá (Roze, 1966). Later, range