
ADDITIONAL NOTES TO THE ARTICLE 'THE SNAKES OF SURINAME, PART II. THE GENUS *ANILIIDAE* AND *BOIDAE*'.

(Litteratura Serpentium, Vol. 2 (3): 123.

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THE BROWN RAINBOWBOA ALSO IN SURINAME

Scientific name: *Epicrates cenchria maurus* Gray,
1849.

English name: Brown rainbowboa.

Maximum length: about 180 cm.

Scalation:

2 supraoculars

2 preoculars

5 postoculars

no subocular

lorealis in two lines (upper line with two and
bottom line with 5 scales)

12 or 13 supralabials

14-16 sublabials

no temporals

46-53 dorsals (middle body)

225-245 ventrals

47-56 subcaudals (in one line); a single anal scale.

Characteristics: Adults are brown till dark brown
dorsally. Sub-adult snakes have dorsally some vague

patterns of lighter round spots. Young snakes have a clear pattern of round light brown spots which do not touch each other. The basic colour of the lateral side is creamy or beige with dark brown dashy spots. As the animals grow older the markings fade and ultimately disappear. The ventrals are grey white.

Compared to *Epicrates cenchria cenchria*, *Epicrates cenchria maurus* is not as spectacular in colour nor markings.

THE FIRST OBSERVATION AND CAPTURE IN SURINAME

As far as I know *Epicrates cenchria maurus* was not spotted in Suriname until September 1975, when I drove with two members of Lacerta along the coast road near Nickerie. It was about 21:30 hours when we saw a snake cross the road. As I came closer I



Foto 1. *Epicrates cenchria maurus*. Foto: A. Abuys.

recognized it as *Epicrates cenchria* sp., however, I had never seen its markings before. Some years later I saw youngsters bred by mr. P. Stoel. At that moment I was convinced of the fact that I had seen *Epicrates cenchria maurus* in Nickerie. The snake in Nickerie was only half grown and had almost exactly the same markings and colour as some of the young *Epicrates cenchria maurus* of mr. Stoel.

DISTRIBUTION IN SURINAME

The first *Epicrates cenchria maurus* was found in the coastal area near Nickerie by A. Abuys, N. Reyst and F. Ensinck in 1975.

Area of distribution: Central America, from Costa Rica south to Panama, Northern Colombia and Venezuela. Also on Trinidad, Tobago, Margarita and probably in the coastal area of the three Guyanas.

Translation: Jan Cor Jacobs