

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS SCIENCE BULLETIN

VOL. XLVIII

PAGES 785-790

NOVEMBER 14, 1969

No. 19

On the Status of *Caecilia occidentalis* Taylor

EDWARD H. TAYLOR*

While re-examining caecilians in the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia (ANSP), I found four specimens from Popayan and Moscopán, Cauca, Colombia, which had been overlooked on my previous examination of the collection. These had been labeled *Caecilia pachynema* by a previous caretaker. Careful examination of these specimens causes me to associate them with *Caecilia occidentalis* Taylor described from a specimen obtained from Dr. Max Hensley and likewise from Popayan. Despite the fact that the specimen serving as the type had been injured badly, practically all significant characters were discerned.

Of these four specimens, ANSP Nos. 25566-25569, the first three are topotypes of *C. occidentalis*, the fourth is from Moscopán, Cauca, Colombia. They provide data to substantiate the validity of the species. A skull has been prepared from ANSP No. 25568, which is described and figured.

Comparative data on measurements, tooth counts, etc., are presented in the following table [data on the type, (EHT-HMS 4665), included].

From the table, it will be noted that the process of growth entails a great lengthening of the body, the width of head and body growing but little proportionally.

The absence of secondaries in certain specimens of a species has been reported in other species of the genus *Caecilia* (i.e., *guntheri*, *pachynema*) while in certain other species secondaries have not as yet been found to occur (i.e., *caribea* and *elongata*).

The collars in these four specimens are not as well marked as in the type. The transverse dorsal grooves are either absent or only dimly indicated. The two collars are not clearly separated dorsally, and the second is fused dorsally and ventrally with the first primary fold.

The lateral cream or yellowish stripe is similar to that of the type, better defined anteriorly and posteriorly, while in the area between, it may be reduced to a dim broken line which may be absent for a distance. The

* Research Associate, Kansas University, Museum of Natural History.



Taylor, Edward Harrison. 1969. "On the Status of *Caecilia occidentalis* Taylor." *The University of Kansas science bulletin* 48, 785–790.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/25760>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/28900>

Holding Institution

Harvard University, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Ernst Mayr Library

Sponsored by

Harvard University, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Ernst Mayr Library

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: In copyright. Digitized with the permission of the rights holder.

Rights Holder: KU Biodiversity Institute and Natural History Museum

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/>

Rights: <https://biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.