

The status of *Drymobius reissii* Peters, 1868 (Serpentes, Colubridae)

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The name *Drymobius reissii* was forgotten and one of us (FMDA) is revising the genus *Drymobius* and examined the holotype of that species discovering its true identification. Peters (1868) described as *Herpetodryas (Drymobius) reissii* with a specimen from Guayaquil, Ecuador, and deposited in the Zoologisches Museum zu Berlin (ZMB 4507). The original description provided data on head shields, number of dorsal scales, ventral scales, subcaudal scales and coloration. In the same year, Cope (1868) described another species calling *Masticophis pulchriceps* with holotype from Quito, Ecuador, also based on head plates, number of scales and coloration. This specimen was deposited at the National Museum of Natural History of Washington (USNM 6704). Stuart (1941) described the genus *Dryadophis* allocating the Cope's species in it (*Dryadophis pulchriceps*). Peters and Orejas-Miranda (1970)

synonymized previously *Dryadophis* with *Mastigodryas* Amaral 1935 using *Mastigodryas pulchriceps*. Vanzolini (1977) discovered the Peters's name, and revalidated it correcting the original presentation as *Drymobius reissii*. Bauer *et al.* (1995), reviewing the herpetological work of Wilhelm Peters, provided the number of the holotype and commented that the species was not cited in the Catalogue of Neotropical Squamata of Peters and Orejas-Miranda (1970).

We examined the holotype of *Drymobius reissii*, which is a young female with the number of dorsal scale rows as 17-19-17-15 counting at neck, middle, posterior, and precloacal regions, respectively, and to determine the scale reduction formula according to Dowling (1951); pre and postoculars 1+2; supralabials 9, fourth to sixth entering the orbit; infralabials 10, first to sixth contacting anterior chin shields; temporals 2+2; preventrals 2; ventrals 186; subcaudals 110; anal plate divided. The measurements taken are (mm): head length 14.8; snout-vent length 267.0; tail length 100.0; snout length 4.4; diameter of the orbit 3.2. The dorsal pattern presents 20 dark blotches on trunk and 14 on tail (Figure 1).

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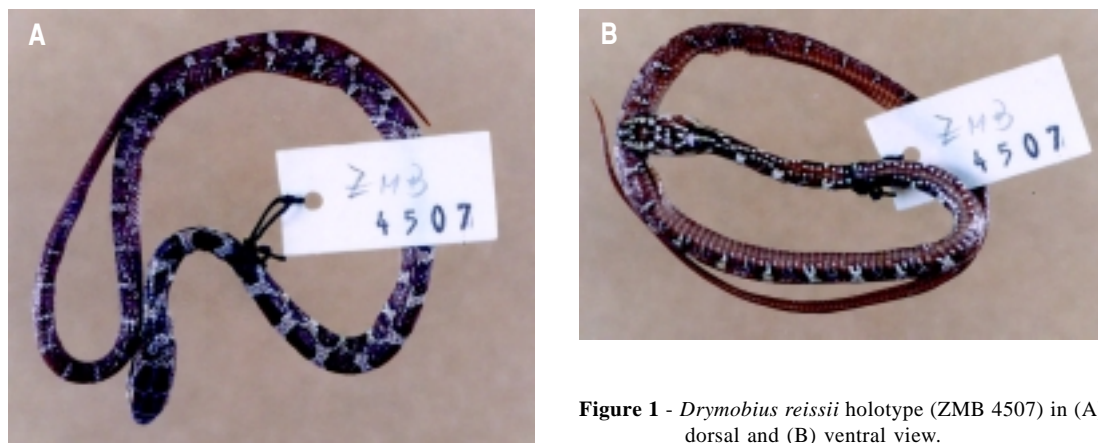


Figure 1 - *Drymobius reissii* holotype (ZMB 4507) in (A) dorsal and (B) ventral view.

The reduction dorsal scale rows formula is:

+8 (90)	- 8 (105)	8+9 (116)	17	19	17	15 (170)
<hr style="width: 100%; border: 0.5px solid black;"/>						
+8 (90)	- 8 (105)	8+9 (116)				

The data of holotype of *Drymobius reissii* compared with the description of *Mastigodryas pulchriceps* Cope 1868, together the *Dryadophis* revision of Stuart (1941), show the identity of the two names. The presentation of the description of the two names was September by Peters, and March by Cope, so the Cope's name has priority and, therefore, *Drymobius reissii* Peters 1868 is a junior synonym of *Mastigodryas pulchriceps* (Cope 1868).

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