

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
HERITAGE DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

Animal Abstract

Element Code: ARADB16020

Data Sensitivity: No

CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE

NAME: *Gyalopion quadrangulare*

COMMON NAME: Thornscrub Hook-Nosed Snake, Desert Hooknose Snake

SYNONYMS: *Ficimia quadrangularis*, *Ficimia desertum*

FAMILY: Serpentes:Colubridae

AUTHOR, PUBLICATION: Gunther 1893:99, plate 35, fig A.

TYPE LOCALITY: "Presidio, near Mazatlan, Sinaloa"

TYPE SPECIMEN:

TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS: Two species in genus; *G. quadrangularis* is monotypic.

DESCRIPTION: Stebbins 1966 and 1985. Shaw and Campbell 1974. Total length 6-17 inches. Behler and King (1979) report lengths of 7-14 Inches (17.8-35.6 cm). This snake has a prominent upturned snout, with black saddles on the back. The large blotch on the head is fused with the crossband on the neck. A lateral red or rust-colored stripe runs the length of body on each side, and is broken by black saddles. In young snakes, the red bands are usually darker than in the adult. Ground color between saddles and red bands is ash-white. Belly pale greenish-yellow without pattern. Scales are usually smooth, and usually in 17 rows at midbody. The anal plate is usually single.

AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION: The upturned snout distinguishes this snake from the similar Long-nosed Snake (*Rhinocheilus lecontei*).

ILLUSTRATIONS: Black and white drawing (Stebbins 1966: plate 34)
Black and white drawing (Stebbins 1985: plate 40)

TOTAL RANGE: Western slope of the Sierra Madre Occidental of Mexico and southern headwaters of the Gila River drainage in extreme southern Arizona.

RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA: Patagonia-Pajarito Mountains area, Santa Cruz County, in southern Arizona.

SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS

BIOLOGY: A burrowing snake that is secretive. Inactive in cold temperatures and extreme heat. It is strictly nocturnal and is seen abroad on the surface chiefly during and after rains in summer and fall. When threatened, it usually tries to escape, often burrowing into loose soil. They occasionally try to bluff something that is threatening them by striking at it vigorously, although they do not attempt to bite.

REPRODUCTION: Oviparous. Breeding habits unknown.

FOOD HABITS: Favors spiders, centipedes and scorpions.

HABITAT: In Arizona, oak-grass and mesquite-grass habitats, ca 3400-4400 ft. Per Stebbins (1985), "found in loose soil of canyon bottoms and outwash plains in Mexico and Arizona. It occurs in rolling foothills of mesquite grasslands in Arizona, including partly cultivated sections."

ELEVATION: 3,400 - 4,400 feet (1,037 - 1,340 m) in Arizona. Found from sea level to 4,400 feet (1,340 m) through out its range.

PLANT COMMUNITY: Arizona Sonoran Desert to tropical forest (Mexico) in southern parts of range.

POPULATION TRENDS: Unknown

SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS:	None
STATE STATUS:	1B (AGFD SWAP 2012)
OTHER STATUS:	PR, Determined Subject to Special Protection in Mexico (NORMA Oficial Mexicana NOM-059-SEMARNAT-2010) [PR Secretaria de Desarrollo Social, 1994] Forest Service Sensitive Species (USDA FS Region 3 2007, 2013)

MANAGEMENT FACTORS: None

PROTECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN: None

SUGGESTED PROJECTS: Distribution, habitat, population and life history studies.

LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP:

SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION**REFERENCES:**

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- USDA, Forest Service Region 3. 2007. Regional Forester's Sensitive Species List.
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MAJOR KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUALS:

- T.R. Van Devender, Arizona Sonoran Desert Museum, Tucson.
- L.M. Hardy, LSU, Shreveport, LA.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Revised: 1991-03-27 (???)
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