

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

**Animal Abstract**

Element Code: ARADB35130

Data Sensitivity: No

**CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE**

**NAME:** *Tantilla yaquia*  
**COMMON NAME:** Yaqui Black-headed Snake  
**SYNONYMS:** *Tantilla planiceps yaquia*  
**FAMILY:** Serpentes:Colubridae

**AUTHOR, PUBLICATION:** H.M. Smith (1942)

**TYPE LOCALITY:** Guasaremos, Rio Mayo, Chihuahua, Mexico

**TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS:** About 45 species and subspecies in genus, from southern U.S. to South America; *T. yaquia* is monotypic.

**DESCRIPTION:** Stebbins 1966:180-181. Total length 7-13 inches. Ground color above tan to brown, with brown to black cap and light collar. Ventrally pale or white, becoming orange-pink under tail.

**AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION:**

**ILLUSTRATIONS:** Black and white drawing (Stebbins 1966: plates 31, 35)

**TOTAL RANGE:** Southeastern Arizona south to Nayarit, Mexico.

**RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA:** Southeast corner of state, Cochise and Santa Cruz County.

**SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS**

**BIOLOGY:**

**REPRODUCTION:** Lays 1-4 eggs.

**FOOD HABITS:** Small arthropods.

**HABITAT:** In Arizona, generally above 3300 feet in evergreen and riparian woodland in the Chiricahua and Mule mountains, Cochise County, Pajarito Mountains, Santa Cruz County.

**ELEVATION:** Generally above 3,300 feet (1,007 m).

**PLANT COMMUNITY:**

**POPULATION TRENDS:** Unknown

### **SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION**

**ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS:** None  
**STATE STATUS:** 1B (AGFD SWAP 2012)  
**OTHER STATUS:** ANHP Peripheral Mexican  
Forest Service Sensitive (USDA FS Region  
3, 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:**

- Arizona Game and Fish Department. 2012. Arizona's State Wildlife Action Plan 2012-2022. Phoenix, AZ.
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- Shaw, C.E. and S. Campbell. 1974. Snakes of the American West. Alfred A. Knopf. P.166.
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- USDA, Forest Service Region 3. 2013. Regional Forester's List of Sensitive Animals.

**MAJOR KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUALS:**

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**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

**Revised:** 1991-03-28 ( )

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