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J. J. Berberich
University of Iowa

C. H. Dodge
University of Iowa

G. E. Folk Jr.
University of Iowa

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Overlapping of Ranges of Eastern and Western Hognose Snakes in Southeastern Iowa

J. J. BERBERICH,¹ C. H. DODGE and G. E. FOLK, JR.

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SYNOPSIS. Overlapping of ranges of the eastern hognose snake (*Heterodon platyrhinos* Latreille) and the western hognose snake

(*Heterodon nasicus nasicus* Baird and Girard) is reported from a sand prairie in Muscatine County, Iowa.

INDEX DESCRIPTORS: hognose snake; *Heterodon nasicus*; *Heterodon platyrhinos*; species range; species distribution.

Two snakes from the same sand prairie habitat have been identified, respectively, as *Heterodon nasicus nasicus* and *Heterodon platyrhinos*. The characters of these snakes agree with those given by Conant (1958). Some characteristics of the two snakes, both female, are given below:

Species	Sex	Snout-vent length	Snout-tail length
<i>H. nasicus</i>	F	480 mm	532 mm
<i>H. platyrhinos</i>	F	572 mm	732 mm

The two snakes were taken from a sand prairie in Muscatine County, Iowa, on 5 September 1970. The eastern hognose snake was found in tall prairie grass. The western hognose snake was found in short grass approximately one hundred yards from the eastern hognose snake alongside a plowed field. A baby western hognose snake was also found in this plowed field.



Fig. 2. Ventral aspect of eastern hognose snake.



Fig. 1. Ventral aspect of western hognose snake.

The existence of the western hognose snake in western Iowa has been previously reported (Ruthven, 1910; Guthrie,

¹ Department of Physiology, The University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa 52240.

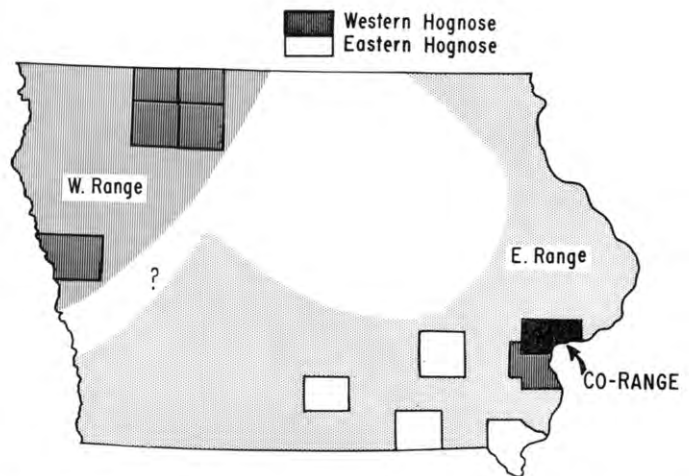


Fig. 3. Counties in Iowa where either western or eastern hognose snakes have been found previously are represented by blocked white and dark-shaded areas. The range for each (W. Range, E. Range) from Conant's field guide are indicated by the large shaded areas. However, both species were found in an eastern county, indicated by black area labelled co-range.

1926) and in southeastern Iowa (Dodge, 1963). A few specimens of the eastern hognose snake have been reported in Iowa by Guthrie (1926) and it has been presumed to be present in all parts of Iowa except the northwest by Conant (1958).

This herpetological note is reported for the following reasons:

1. It corroborates the presence of the western hognose snake in eastern Iowa, first reported by Dodge (1963).
2. Although both eastern and western hognose snakes have been found in the same area previously in Meade County, Kansas, and Henderson County, Illinois (Edgren, pers. comm.), it is not believed that this fact has been previously reported. This report demonstrates for the first time the overlapping of ranges of the two species in Iowa.
3. This report also adds a new Iowa county record for both snakes.

4. It is hoped that this note will encourage future work in the herpetology of Iowa.

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