

## RIM ROCK CROWNED SNAKE

*Tantilla oolitica*

**Order:** Squamata  
**Family:** Colubridae  
**FNAI Ranks:** G1G2/S1S2  
**U.S. Status:** none  
**FL Status:** Threatened



**Description:** A tiny (maximum length 10 in. = 254 mm), light brown snake with a dark brown or black head and neck, and a pale belly; sometimes a partial light band between the darker head and neck. Scales smooth; anal scale divided.

**Similar Species:** Brown snake (*Storeria dekayi victa*; see species account) has keeled scales and spots on its back. Ringneck snake (e.g., *Diadophis punctatus acricus*; see species account) has dark gray to black back and at least partly yellow to orange belly. Other similar species of crowned snakes occur elsewhere in Florida.

**Habitat:** Tropical hardwood hammocks, slash pine rocklands, and disturbed habitats such as vacant lots and pastures. Inhabits soil and rock crevices, found under surface litter.

**Seasonal Occurrence:** Few data; presumably less active in winter.

**Florida Distribution:** Restricted to eastern Miami-Dade County and the Upper and Middle Keys of Monroe County. Confirmed Keys records include Key Largo and Upper Matecumbe and Grassy keys.

**Range-wide Distribution:** Same as Florida distribution.

**Conservation Status:** Some habitat is protected on public lands on Key Largo. Much of the original limited habitat of the species has been destroyed by extensive development in Miami and the Keys.

**Protection and Management:** Manage habitat of known populations to keep it in as natural a state as possible.

**References:** Ashton and Ashton 1988b, Conant and Collins 1991, Ernst and Barbour 1989, Lazell 1989, Moler (ed.) 1992, Tenant 1997.



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