

shore (*e. g.* the extreme eastern end of the island) are covered with mangrove forest.

Surface water is present on the island in the form of streams. A freshwater stream at the northern edge of Coxen Hole is the habitat of several species of frogs and snakes.

#### ISLA DE GUANAJA

Guanaja (its English name is Bonacca) is about 14 km long and is 6.2 km across at the widest point. As with Roatán, most of the island lies about 20 m in elevation. The highest point is Michael Rock Peak (415 m), approximately in the middle of the island.

Most of the people of Guanaja live near the southeastern end of the island on Shin Cay and Hog Cay. A few people also live at Sabana Bight on the northeastern end of the island and at Mangrove Bight on the northern end.

The highest elevations on the island are covered with a sparse growth of pine which gives way at lower elevations to scattered patches of lowland rainforest (most prevalent along streams). The beaches are largely sand-covered, backed by groves of coconut palms. Patches of mangrove forest occur sporadically along the periphery of the island (one such lies next to the main airstrip directly across from the cay on which the town of Guanaja is located). In addition there are some large rock outcroppings, some of which bound the shore. Numerous freshwater streams are present.

#### HISTORICAL REVIEW OF COLLECTING

The first extensive herpetological collections from the Bay Islands were amassed by G. F. Gaumer, a collector for F. D. Godman and O. Salvin, editors of "Biologia Centrali-Americana." A. F. Stimson, of the British Museum (Natural History), has been gracious enough to send us some detailed information about the activities of Gaumer and also of J. S. Colman, another collector, whose work is discussed below. According to information contained in correspondence between Gaumer and Salvin, neither Salvin nor Godman were on the Bay Islands. Salvin requested that Gaumer visit the Bay Islands. Gaumer collected on Roatán and Guanaja intermittently from about December 1885 to March 1888.

Among the material Gaumer collected were 3 *Leptotyphlops phenops*, 8 *Micrurus ruatanus*, 7 *Rana palmipes*, 1 *Elaphe flavirufa*, 2 *Oxybelis aeneus*, and 1 *Tantilla taeniata*.

In 1897 J. E. Jarnigan, then a United States consul on Utila, send two specimens of a ctenosaur to the National Zoological Park in Washington, D.C. These were later described as *Ctenosaura bakeri* by Stejneger (1900).