

considered *magnamaculata* closer to *phenops* than to *goudoti*, *goudoti* being slimmer and having a lower dorsal scale count than *magnamaculata*. Other authors (Smith 1958, Scott 1969) regarded *goudoti* as a distinct species. Dunn and Saxe (1950) also pointed out that "the structural characters of the insular *Leptotyphlops magnamaculata* are quite within the variation of mainland *phenops*, but they are more vividly marked."

Data from Smith (1943), Hartweg and Oliver (1940), Oliver (1937), Davis and Dixon (1959), Mertens (1952), and Honduran specimens indicate a range in dorsal scale number of 221 to 265 for mainland *phenops*. Individual counts for 42 specimens from Mexico, El Salvador, and Honduras indicate a range of 230 to 263,  $\bar{x}$ =245.5. Twenty-three *magnamaculata* from all three islands range in dorsal scale number from 220 to 244,  $\bar{x}$ =231.5. The number of dorsal scales does seem to be higher on the mainland, but a more accurate assessment must await a study of material of *phenops* from the length of the range.

The light rostral spot is more extensive in *magnamaculata* than in *phenops*, judging from reports of the latter in the literature and examination of available material from mainland Honduras. In mainland *phenops* the light spot is apparently confined to the rostral and in some cases may be absent as it is in a specimen from Depto. Cortés, Honduras in the personal collection of John Dickson. In island specimens the light rostral spot is always present. In one specimen (LACM 63431) it is confined to the rostral; in all others it is more extensive. In 17 out of 20 specimens examined for this character, the light spot is present on the rostral, medial edges of the nasals, and anterior portion of the prefrontal and is not connected with the light stripes on the dorsum. In two specimens (FMNH 34593 and LSUMZ 21775) the light spot covers all but the ventral one-third of the rostral, the medial halves of the nasals and supraoculars, all of the prefrontal and frontal, most of the interparietal except for a dark spot in the center, and the medial edges of the parietals and occipitals; it is also in contact with the two median light stripes on the dorsum.

In comparison with Honduras mainland material the dorsal ground color of island specimens is darker and the scale edges are lighter and straighter (less zig-zag), especially on the middorsal portion, making the island specimens more vividly striped.

The light tail spot occupies a smaller portion of the tail in island specimens than it does on mainland Honduran specimens. In the island material it occupies the tail spine, 2 to 6 (usually 3) dorsal scales and 2 to 4 subcaudals. In mainland specimens it occupies about half of the underside of the tail.