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The Portrait:

Agkistrodon monticola (WERNER)

1929 *Ancistrodon blomhoffi monticola* WERNER: Neue Reptilien aus Süd-China, gesammelt von Dr. H. HANDEL-MAZZETTI — Anz. Akad. Wiss., Wien, Math.-Naturw. Kl., 59: 222 — **Terra typica**: Yaoshan, near Likiang (Li-chiang), northwestern Yunnan, China

Family: Viperidae

Distribution: Known only from the northern parts of the province of Yunnan in China.

Description: One of the two smallest *Agkistrodon*-species; total-length up to 50 cm: snout roundish, head slightly set off; body relatively slender. Six supralabials; 17 - 19 scalerows at midbody, weakly keeled; 135 - 149 ventrals; anal plate undivided; 26 - 38 subcaudals. Body coloured blackish to greenish, sometimes with dark mottling and V-shaped pattern on the head.

Habitat and Ecology: This species is poorly known. It lives at altitudes between 3600 - 4000 m. Two specimens were found on a hill underneath brush in a swampy and grassland area (XIONG & WANG 1982). A female contained nine eggs (POPE 1935).

Husbandry: Both my specimens are easily kept in a terrarium and readily accept fuzzy mice. As the animals originate from a mountain-range, they should receive heating by a spot-light only. An extended hibernation is necessary.

Remarks: *A. monticola* is the rarest species of the genus. The front cover picture is the first illustration published.

Literature:

GLOYD, H.K. & R. CONANT (1990): Snakes of the the *Agkistrodon* Complex - A monographic Review — Athens (OH) (SSAR Publ.), 615 pp.

POPE, C.H. (1935): The Reptiles of China — Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. Cent. Asia, New York, 10: 1 - 604

XIONG, Y.-L. & W.-Y. WANG (1982): Notes on *Agkistrodon monticola* WERNER from Yunnan and a Study on its Karyotype — Acta. Herpetol. Sinica, New Series, Chengdu, 1 (1): 83 (in Chinese)*

* — Source was not available to the author

Gernot VOGEL Society for Southeast
Wielandstr. 7 Asian Herpetology
D (W) - 6900 Heidelberg, F R Germany

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