**Thamnodynastes ramonriveroi** (Double-lined Water Snake)

Family: Dipsadidae (Rear-fanged Snakes)
Order: Squamata (Lizards and Snakes)
Class: Reptilia (Reptiles)

![Image](http://www2.scielo.org.ve/scielo.php?script=sci_arttext&pid=S0037-85182006000200002&lng=pt, downloaded 31 October 2016)

**Fig. 1.** Double-lined water snake, *Thamnodynastes ramonriveroi*.

**TRAITS.** A medium sized snake, about 60cm long, *Thamnodynastes ramonriveroi* is the only snake in Trinidad having 19 rows of smooth scales on its back. It has light and dark stripes on the back and a plain brown coloured belly (Fig. 1). There is one scale in front of the eyes, and two scales behind the eyes; eight scales on the upper lip, with the fourth and fifth entering the orbit (eye); 137–153 scales on the belly, a divided anal plate, and 59–75 scales below the tail (Fig. 2) (Bailey and Thomas, 2006). It is also known as the mapanare del agua (Manzanilla and Sanchez, 2005).

**DISTRIBUTION.** Occupies a considerable altitudinal range, from sea level to 1750m. They are found in southwest Trinidad, northern and eastern Venezuela and coastal Suriname, and elsewhere in South America (Bailey and Thomas, 2006).
HABITAT AND ECOLOGY. *Thamnodynastes ramonriveroi* is a semi-aquatic species, and swims very proficiently. Its diet consists of small fish and tadpoles. It is found in secondary forests and agricultural areas.

BEHAVIOUR. *Thamnodynastes ramonriveroi* are solitary, they have never been encountered in groups or clusters. When provoked, *T. ramonriveroi* opens its mouth quite widely in a vicious manner, either to bite or as a warming signal (Bailey and Thomas, 2006) This snake species will play dead if threatened, with a flattened body (Manzanilla and Sanchez, 2005).

APPLIED BIOLOGY. *Thamnodynastes ramonriveroi* is not listed by the IUCN. The related species *T. strigatus* is used in venomics, which is the study of venom peptides and proteins and transcripts.

REFERENCES


Author: Jerome Dempster Babb

Posted online: 2016

Fig. 2. *Thamnodynastes* ramonriveroi preserved specimen; a) dorsal view, b) ventral view. [http://www2.scielo.org.ve/scielo.php?script=sci_arttext&pid=S0037-85182006000200002&lng=pt, downloaded 31 October 2016]

For educational use only - copyright of images remains with original source