

(A) PHOTOS BY GERARD SIATOWSKI; (B) PHOTOS BY NIGEL SMITH; (C) PHOTO BY NOAH GRIPSHOVER; (D) PHOTO BY STEPHEN STRASSER; (E) PHOTO BY KEVIN ENGE; (F) PHOTO BY JOHN SERRAO; (G) PHOTO BY J.D. WILLSON; (H) PHOTO BY SIDNEY GODFREY

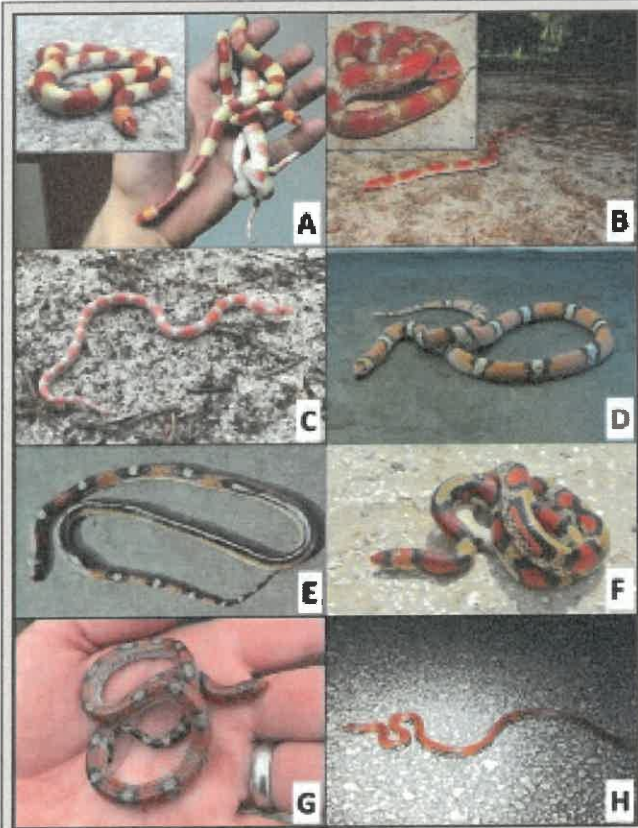


FIG. 1. *Cemophora coccinea* from the USA exhibiting (A) amelanism from Miami-Dade County, Florida; (B) amelanism from Covington County, Alabama; (C) amelanism from Telfair County, Georgia; (D) hypomelanism from Martin County, Florida; (E) partial striping from Bradford County, Florida; (F) aberrant patterning from Volusia County, Florida; (G) aberrant patterning from Sebastian County, Arkansas; (H) hypererythrisms from Miami-Dade County, Florida.

**CEMOPHORA COCCINEA** (Scarlet Snake). **PHENOTYPIC ABERRANCIES.** *Cemophora coccinea* typically has wide red or orange saddles bordered by black with white, yellow, or dingy gray interspaces and a white venter. The black borders normally do not extend along the bottom of the red saddles. This species is often considered a mimic of the venomous *Micrurus fulvius* (Harlequin Coral Snake) in the southeastern USA. Recently, phenotypic aberrancies have been described for *M. fulvius* (Enge et al. 2021. *Herpetol. Rev.* 52:672–673) and another mimic, *Lampropeltis elapsoides* (Scarlet Kingsnake; Enge et al. 2021. *Herpetol. Rev.* 52:669). Amelanistic adult *C. coccinea* have been documented from Rockingham County, North Carolina (Brimley 1942. *Carolina Tips* 5:3); Clayton County, Georgia (Herman 1981. *Herpetol. Rev.* 14:119), and Putnam County, Florida (Stuart and Dodd 1985. *Herpetol. Rev.* 16:78). Bechtel (1995. *Reptile and Amphibian Variants: Colors, Patterns, and Scales*. Krieger Publishing Co., Malabar, Florida. 206 pp.) included a photo of the latter specimen, which had pale white instead of black bands and abnormally narrow reddish-pink saddles (Stuart and Dodd 1985, *op. cit.*). We are aware of seven other amelanistic *C. coccinea*. Two amelanistic specimens found ca. 3 m apart on 15 May 2015 by GS and Jeff Fobb in Homestead, Miami-Dade County, Florida, had dark red saddles bordered by cream-colored bands and immaculate white interspaces (Fig. 1A).

Amelanistic Florida specimens from Martin County (Zack Jud, pers. comm.) and Palm Beach County (Clayton Hodges, pers. comm.) also had dark red saddles. An amelanistic adult found on 11 July 2015 by NS near Falko in Covington County, Alabama, had light red saddles bordered by dark tan bands with cream-colored interspaces tinged with yellow (Fig. 1B). Based on the dark tan bands, this might represent tyrosinase-positive albinism (Bechtel 1978. *J. Herpetol.* 12:521–532). A juvenile trapped along a drift fence on 16 May 2022 by NDG in Telfair County, Georgia, had reddish-pink saddles bordered by flesh-colored bands with white interspaces (Fig. 1C). A snake from Fort Myers, Lee County, Florida had similar coloration (Flavio Valdez Cito, pers. comm.). Because of the semi-fossorial nature and primarily crepuscular or nocturnal activity exhibited by *C. coccinea* (Ernst and Ernst 2003. *Snakes of the Eastern United States and Canada*. Smithsonian Books, Washington, D.C. 668 pp.), amelanistic individuals may be somewhat protected from visually oriented predators. An apparently hypomelanistic specimen found ca. 2017 by SS in Martin County, Florida, had shrimp pink saddles bordered by dark lavender bands and dark red eyes (Fig. 1D).

The only pattern anomaly reported for *C. coccinea* was an individual that had its light-colored interspaces fused into a broken middorsal stripe bordered by black (Bechtel 1995, *op. cit.*). Similar partially striped specimens have been found, including one in 1982 by KME near Starke, Bradford County, Florida (Fig. 1E). Approximately one-half of its body had a white mid-dorsal stripe bordered by black; four white donuts bordered by black were anterior to the stripe, and two similar markings were posterior to the stripe before normal banding pattern appeared towards the tail. An aberrantly patterned specimen with a few interspaces connected along the spine was found on 21 June 2012 by JS in Tiger Bay State Forest, Volusia County, Florida (Fig. 1F). An individual with muted red coloration and white donuts bordered by black was found under a rock by EL at Fort Chaffee Joint Maneuver Training Center, Sebastian County, Arkansas (Fig. 1G). The bottom two or three scale rows on the body had mostly white scales tipped with black posteriorly. Instead of a wide orange nuchal band bordered by narrower black bands, it had a small orange spot on each parietal scale that were connected and had a black border. A hypererythristic specimen with a uniformly red dorsum and light-colored ovals or short stripes bordered by black confined to the lower sides of the body was found on 18 September 2019 by SG and JRD in Everglades National Park, Miami-Dade Co., Florida (Fig. 1H). It lacked an orange nuchal band; instead, an orange patch extended up to the level of the eye.

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