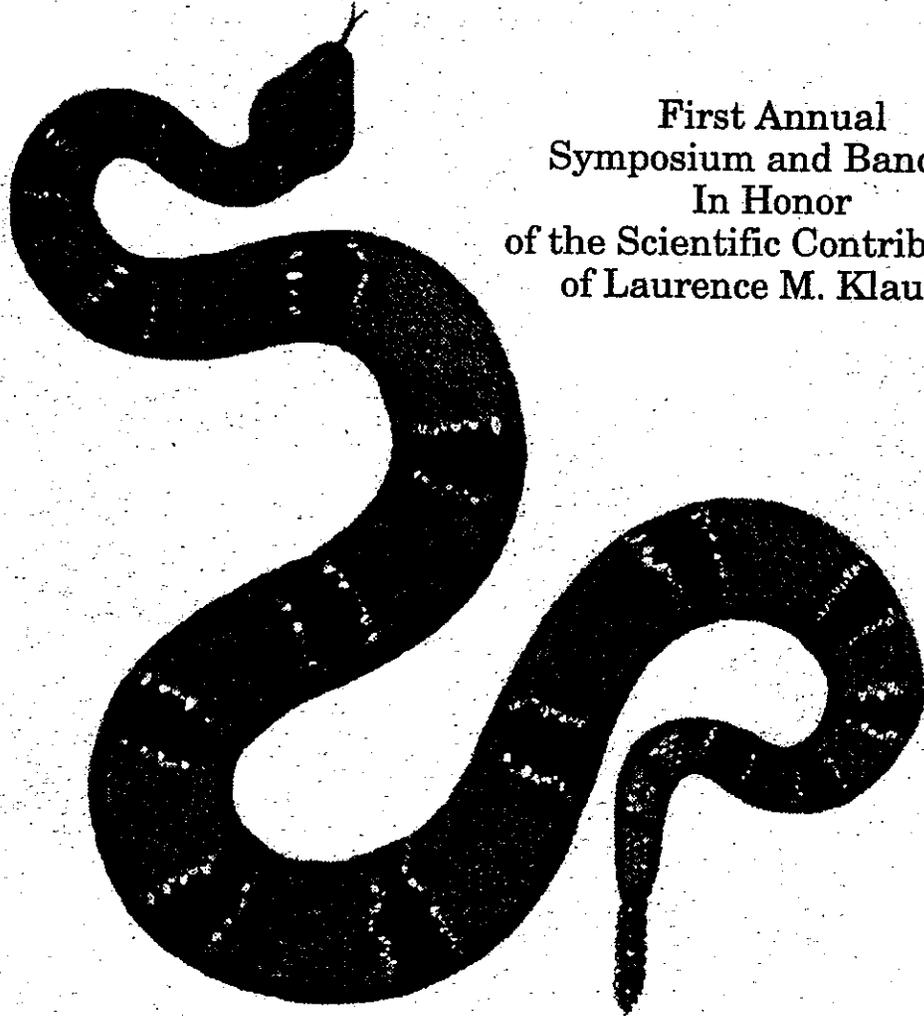


Klauber Symposium **Herpetology of the Californias**



**First Annual
Symposium and Banquet
In Honor
of the Scientific Contributions
of Laurence M. Klauber**

**May 15, 1998
San Diego Natural History Museum**

✓
The effects of urbanization on the herpetofauna of coastal southern
California: Biodiversity, life history, and reserve design.

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Abstract. We are conducting an intensive study of the herpetofauna of the low elevation scrubland communities of the California Floristic Province between the Whittier Hills and the Mexican Border. Our research focuses on life history of species and the effect of habitat fragmentation on species distributions. This is a region of expanding urbanization with a human population in excess of 16 million residents. We utilize pit-fall traps with drift fences to trap reptile and amphibian species at 26 study sites, consisting of multiple sampling stations, ranging over an environmental gradient of habitat, elevation, and climate. The trapping design captures 40+ species of reptiles and amphibians. It is an effective way to sample the majority of the terrestrial fauna, particularly those species that are difficult to inventory because of nocturnal, fossorial, and cryptic habits. We found that most species occur broadly over this area, and that there is a core group of 14 species that occurs evenly at the majority of the study sites in each county. We are also creating the historic (early 1900's) herpetofauna communities of our study sites in San Diego County using the records of Klauber, and others, to determine which species may be at greatest risk of decline in coastal Southern California. Several of the sensitive species we are studying are widespread across the region, and if proactive conservation steps are taken, many of these could be brought out of risk for future listings.

Cancellation:

3:40-4:00pm

Michael Cryder

Phylogeography of the spiny-tailed iguana, *Ctenosaura hemilopha*