

***Ficimia publia*. Reproduction.** The Blotched Hook-nosed Snake, *Ficimia publia* Cope, 1866, is found at low elevations on the Atlantic versant from Veracruz, Mexico, to northwestern Honduras, and on the Pacific versant from southern Puebla and Guerrero, Mexico, to Guatemala (McCranie, 2011). Hardy (1980) summarized the biology of *F. publia*. Information on reproduction consists of a clutch of two oviductal eggs produced by one individual of *F. publia* from Belize (Greer, 1966). In this note I add information on the reproductive cycle of *F. publia* from a histological examination of museum specimens.

I examined eight *F. publia* from Mexico, three males (mean snout–vent length [SVL] = 324.3 mm ± 30.7 SD, range = 292–353 mm) and five females (mean SVL = 264.8 mm ± 20.5 SD, range = 245–295 mm) deposited in the herpetology collection of the University of Colorado Museum (UCM), Boulder, Colorado, United States: Chiapas: UCM 49852; Oaxaca: UCM 39925; Quintana Roo: UCM 40234–40236, 41696, 41697, 52566. The snakes were collected from 1968 to 1972.

I removed the left ovary from females and the left testis and vas deferens from males for histological examination, and embedded the tissues in paraffin, cut into 5µm sections, mounted on glass slides, and stained with Harris hematoxylin followed by eosin counterstain (Presnell and Schreibman, 1997). I examined the slides to ascertain the stage of the testicular cycle or the presence of yolk deposition. I counted oviductal eggs or enlarged ovarian follicles (> 10 mm length), but did not examine them histologically, and deposited the histology slides at UCM.

The testicular histology was similar to that reported by Goldberg and Parker (1975) for the colubrid snakes, *Masticophis taeniatus* and *Pituophis catenifer* (as *P. melanoleucus*). The only stage present in the testicular cycle was spermiogenesis, in which the seminiferous tubules were lined by sperm or clusters of metamorphosing spermatids. Vasa deferentia contained sperm. Males came from the following months: March UCM 39925, SVL = 353 mm; April UCM 52566, SVL = 328 mm; November UCM 40235, SVL = 292 mm. The presence of males undergoing spermiogenesis at opposite ends of the year suggests a prolonged period of sperm formation.

Three of the five *F. publia* females examined were reproductively active: (1) May UCM 41696, SVL = 247 mm, early yolk deposition; (2) August UCM 40236, SVL = 245 mm, two enlarging eggs (> 10 mm length); (3) September UCM 40234, SVL = 272 mm, three oviductal eggs; and (4, 5) January UCM 41697, SVL = 265 mm, July UCM 49852, SVL = 295 mm, July, both no yolk deposition. The presence of female reproductive activity late in the season suggests a prolonged ovarian cycle. Three is a new maximum clutch size for *F. publia*.

Additional *F. publia* need to be examined to ascertain the timing of events in the reproductive cycle.

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STEPHEN R. GOLDBERG

Whittier College, Department of Biology, Whittier, California 90608, United States. E-mail: sgoldberg1109@gmail.com