

11900-000, Registro, SP, Brazil; **MARCELO RIBEIRO DUARTE**, Laboratório de Coleções Zoológicas, Instituto Butantan, Av. Vital Brazil, 1500, CEP 05503-900, São Paulo, SP, Brazil (e-mail: marcelo.duarte@butantan.gov.br).

FURINA TRISTIS (Brown-headed snake). DIET. *Furina tristis* is a small (<1 m), poorly known elapid found in northeastern Australia and southern Papua New Guinea. A single study has examined the life-history attributes and gut content of 37 specimens held in the collections of Australian museums (Shine 1981. *J. Herpetol.* 15:219–224). Of these specimens, only four prey items were recovered, all of which were scincid lizards.

At 2012 h on 05 March 2015 (air temperature 25°C), we observed a male *F. tristis* (total length = 82 cm; 131 g) crossing a road within semi-deciduous mesophyll vine forest in the Lockerbie scrub (10.768°S, 142.503°E, WGS 84; 94 m elev.) Cape York Peninsula, Queensland, Australia. The *F. tristis* was holding a dead *Anilius (Ramphotyphlops) polygrammicus* (gravid female; total length = 49 cm; 46 g) in its mouth at mid-body. The *F. tristis* attempted to escape with the blindsnake when approached, but dropped it after moving several meters. Upon closer inspection, we observed that the blindsnake had several wounds along its body, including on the head and tail. The wounds were very deep and wide, and were unlikely to have been inflicted by the snake (which would be expected to make a series of small punctures; Fig 1). Because of these wound characteristics we are confident that the blindsnake was dead when the *F. tristis* found it. Given the size and shape of the wounds inflicted on the blind snake we hypothesize that it was attacked by a rodent.

A review of literature for wild snakes exhibiting scavenging behavior recorded 26 species representing five families, only one of which was an elapid (*Pseudechis australis*; DeVault and Krochmal. 2002. *Herpetologica.* 58:429–436). Known blindsnake predators are *Vermicella annulata* (Bandy-bandy Snakes; Shine 1980. *J. Herpetol.* 14:71–77), owls (Gehlbach and Baldrige 1987. *Oecol.* 71:560–563), toads (Pizzatto et. al. 2012. *Herpetol. Rev.* 43:469–470), and potentially rodents (based on our observation). This note is important because it identifies a novel prey item for *F. tristis* and reveals scavenging behavior in this species, although it is unknown with what regularity this behavior occurs.



FIG. 1. Wounds inflicted on *Anilius polygrammicus* left: anterior body, middle: tail/vent, right: head.

DAMIAN LETTOOF, University of Sydney (e-mail: dlettoof@hotmail.com); **DANIEL NATUSCH**, University of Sydney (e-mail: d_natusch_14@hotmail.com).

GEOPHIS RHODOGASTER (Rosebelly Earth Snake). REPRODUCTION. *Geophis rhodogaster* occurs at intermediate elevations from southern Chiapas, Mexico to southwestern Honduras and northwestern El Salvador (McCranie 2011. *The Snakes of Honduras, Systematics, Distribution, and Conservation.* Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles, Ithaca, New York. 714 pp.). I know of no reports on the reproduction of *G. rhodogaster* other than that it is oviparous (McCranie, *op. cit.*). In this note I report results of a histological examination of gonadal material from *G. rhodogaster* museum specimens.

A sample of 36 adult *G. rhodogaster* consisting of 19 males (mean SVL = 213.4 mm ± 14.9 SD, range = 181–240 mm) and 17 females (mean SVL = 239.1 mm ± 15.9 SD, range = 216–267 mm) collected between 6 July and 4 August 1965 in Guatemala, Departamento Chimaltenango, Acatenango Volcano, Quisache (14.5008°N, 90.8758°W, WGS 84, elev. ca. 1750 m) and deposited in the University of Colorado Museum of Natural History (UCM), Boulder, Colorado, USA was examined: UCM 30673, 30680, 30682, 30684, 30687–30689, 30693, 30696, 30701, 30705–30707, 30710, 30711, 30713, 30717, 30719, 30720, 30725, 30726, 30729–30735, 30739, 30743, 30745–30748, 30755, 30773. The lower part of the body cavity was opened and the left testis or ovary was removed, embedded in paraffin, histological sections were cut at 5 µm and stained by Harris hematoxylin followed by eosin counterstain. Histology slides are deposited at UCM.

All 19 *G. rhodogaster* males were undergoing spermiogenesis in which the seminiferous tubules were lined by sperm or groups of metamorphosing spermatids. Three males exhibited late spermiogenesis in which the germinal epithelium was reduced to a few layers of spermatogenic cells. These males (UCM 30696, 30720, 30730) were likely near the close of sperm formation. Goldberg (2006. *Herpetol. Rev.* 37:351) similarly reported all seven *G. semidoliatus* males collected in July from Veracruz, Mexico exhibited spermiogenesis. The smallest reproductively active *G. rhodogaster* male measured 181 mm SVL (UCM 30734).

The mean SVL of the female sample was significantly larger than that of the male sample (unpaired t-test, $t = 5.1$, $df = 34$, $p = < 0.0001$). Two stages were present in the ovarian cycle: 1) quiescent, no yolk deposition; 2) early yolk deposition (basophilic vitellogenic granules in ooplasm). Seventy-six percent (13/17) of females exhibited early yolk deposition. This large number of females in the same stage of the ovarian cycle (early vitellogenesis), from a limited time period (6 July to 4 August), suggests a high level of synchrony in the ovarian cycle of *G. rhodogaster*. The smallest reproductively active female (early yolk deposition) measured 220 mm SVL (UCM 30706).

I thank Christy McCain (UCM) for permission to examine *G. rhodogaster* and Emily M. Braker (UCM) for facilitating the loan.

STEPHEN R. GOLDBERG, Whittier College, Department of Biology, Whittier, California 90608, USA; e-mail: sgoldberg@whittier.edu.

HETERODON KENNERLYI (Mexican Hog-nosed Snake). MAXIMUM SIZE. The maximum size reported for *Heterodon kennerlyi* for the state of New Mexico is 760 mm total length (Degenhardt et al. 1996. *Amphibians and Reptiles of New Mexico.* University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque. 431 pp.). On 10 June 2015 at 1005 h, a large female *H. kennerlyi* was encountered moving along an access road along the eastern periphery of the main dune field outside of White Sands National Monument proper, Otero Co., New Mexico, USA. The snake measured 705 mm SVL, 795 mm total length and weighed 301 g. This record exceeds the maximum recorded total length for the species in New Mexico