



Department of Biology

18 March 2015

Emily Braker  
Collection Manager  
Herpetology  
University of Colorado Museum  
Campus Box 334  
University of Colorado  
Boulder CO 80309-0334

Dear Ms. Braker

I am writing to request a loan of some of your holdings of the Rosebelly Earth Snake, *Geophis rhodogaster* from Guatemala for a histological reproductive examination. I carefully checked the literature and could not find any published information on *G. rhodogaster* reproduction.


In doing my investigation, I will make a small incision on the lower abdomen and remove one reproductive organ. In females in which the ovaries are in advanced yolk deposition or if the eggs are in the oviducts, eggs will only be counted. Otherwise a histological slide will be made from each removed gonad. The histology slides and lizards will be promptly returned to UCM. My findings will be published in a scientific journal. I looked at your holdings of *G. rhodogaster* on Vertnet and counted 106 specimens. I would obtain publishable data from a sample of around 40 *G. rhodogaster*. Thus, the bulk of your holding of *G. rhodogaster* would not be touched. Please select adult specimens that have not been previously dissected from a variety of months. Please send them to Stephen Goldberg, Whittier College, Biology Department, 7214 Painter Avenue, Whittier, CA 90602.

You previously helped me with my study of *Sceloporus angustus*. A copy of this note is enclosed.

I thank you for considering my above request and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

Stephen R. Goldberg  
Emeritus Professor of Biology  
sgoldberg@whittier.edu  
phone 562-631-8959

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