

potential complications for the mother, some fluid was drained from the egg using a syringe. Shortly following this procedure the egg was passed, which was rubbery and slightly shriveled. The three potentially viable eggs were placed on wet vermiculite (1:1 weight ratio of water to vermiculite) in an incubator at 24°C. Unfortunately, none of the eggs hatched (UTA R-59481 for all four eggs).

The female was collected in July at the beginning of the rainy season, which is consistent with the previous reports of gravid females being found in Colima and Jalisco during the rainy season between July and October (Hale, *op. cit.*; Kofron, *op. cit.*). The number of eggs produced is also consistent with previous observations, further suggesting this species has a clutch size ranging from 2–5 eggs.

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**COLEMAN M. SHEEHY III, JEFFREY W. STREICHER, CHRISTIAN L. COX, RUBEN U. TOVAR, and JACOBO REYES-VELASCO**, Amphibian and Reptile Diversity Research Center, Department of Biology, University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington, Texas 76019, USA (e-mail: cmsheehy@uta.edu).

**DRYMARCHON COUPERI (Eastern Indigo Snake). JUVENILE OBSERVATIONS.** *Drymarchon couperi* is one of the largest North American serpents (to 2.63 m total length; Conant and Collins 1991. A Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians of Eastern and Central North America. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Houghton Mifflin, Boston, Massachusetts. 616 pp.). In the northern part of their range (i.e., northern Florida and Georgia), adult *D. couperi* have an intimate association with *Gopherus polyphemus* (Gopher Tortoise) burrows, which they use as overwintering sites (Hyslop et al. 2009. Copeia 2009:458–464). As a result, cool-season (November 1–March 31) visual encounter surveys (VES) of *G. polyphemus* burrows in xeric sandhills are an effective way to survey for *D. couperi*. Stevenson et al. (2009. Herpetol. Cons. Biol. 4:30–42) conducted a mark-recapture study of *D. couperi* on the Fort Stewart Military Reservation, Georgia, USA (31.88°N, 81.57°W, datum: WGS84). During multiple cool-season surveys conducted between 1998 and 2007, they captured and marked 93 *D. couperi*. However, only two (2%) individuals were young-of-the-year (i.e., juveniles, 35–90 cm SVL) and 19 (20%) were subadults (90.1–120 cm SVL). This apparent inability to detect juvenile and subadult *D. couperi* has resulted in a large deficiency in our understanding of the ecology of these age classes. Here we report additional observations of juvenile *D. couperi* in southern Georgia gleaned from on-going surveys at Fort Stewart (J. Macey, unpubl. data), the literature, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Natural Heritage Program database, major museum collections in Georgia and Florida, and interviews with local herpetologists.

Between 2007 and 2011, four additional juvenile *D. couperi* were captured on Fort Stewart during cool-season VES. All four of these observations were of snakes on the surface near or on the apron of active/inactive (N = 3) or abandoned (N = 1) *G. polyphemus* burrows. In contrast, 54 adults and 11 subadults were captured during those same surveys. We identified 13 additional observations of juvenile *D. couperi* in Georgia between 1975 and 2008. These observations included three juveniles found on the surface during the cool season near *G. polyphemus* burrows (N = 1), *Dasyurus novemcinctus* (Nine-banded Armadillo) burrows (N

= 1; Williamson and Moulis. 1994. Savannah Sci. Mus. Spec. Publ. No. 2., 418 pp.), and stump hole refugia (N = 1). Two observations were individuals alive or dead on roads during the fall (September 10 and October 2), another was in a trap at a drift fence array (October 21; Hyslop et al. 2009. Florida Sci. 72:93–100), and a third was under anthropogenic debris (April). Six observations were of individuals active on the surface but not associated with any cover, including four recent hatchlings found on the same day at the margin of a cypress pond (30 August; Williamson and Moulis, *op. cit.*). At least six of our 13 additional observations (46%) were made in xeric sandhill habitat and three (23%) were in the cool-season.

We are unsure of the reasons behind the extreme disparity between juvenile and adult *D. couperi* observations during cool-season surveys on xeric sandhills or the general paucity of juvenile *D. couperi* records. The success of cool-season VES on xeric sandhills in southern Georgia for finding adults suggests that juvenile detection rates are extremely low, juveniles rarely use *G. polyphemus* burrows as cool-season shelter, and/or juveniles use different habitats than adults. Lower detection rates could be a result of smaller size, more cryptic behavior, or fewer numbers of individuals. We feel this last possibility is unlikely since our Fort Stewart study site contains a robust, reproducing population (Stevenson et al. 2009, *op. cit.*). The small size of juvenile *D. couperi* may allow them to use smaller shelters as overwintering sites, although thermal data indicate that *G. polyphemus* burrows provide the warmest microclimates during the cool season (J. Bauder, unpubl. data). Juveniles may also rarely bask outside of or move among burrows, a behavior that adults readily exhibit (Stevenson et al. 2003. Southeast. Nat. 2:393–408). Juveniles may also avoid *G. polyphemus* burrows used by adults because of the threat of cannibalism, as adult *D. couperi* are strongly ophiophagous (Stevenson et al. 2010. Southeast. Nat. 9:1–18). However, on Fort Stewart we have observed juveniles using burrows < 100 m of burrows used by adults in the same season. Although juvenile *D. couperi* do use xeric sandhills during the cool-season, it is possible that juveniles also overwinter in habitats other than xeric sandhills.

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**JAVAN M. BAUDER**, The Orianne Society, 579 Highway 441 South, Clayton, Georgia 30525, USA (e-mail: jbauder@oriantesociety.org); **JOHN N. MACEY**, US Department of Defense, Fort Stewart Fish and Wildlife Branch, 1177 Frank Cochran Drive, Building 1145, Fort Stewart, Georgia 31314, USA (e-mail: john.macey@us.army.mil); **MARK P. WALLACE**, The Orianne Society, 784 Kelsall Drive, Richmond Hill, Georgia 31324, USA (e-mail: wallacempwjr@aol.com); **FRANKIE SNOW** (e-mail: Frankie.Snow@sgc.edu); **ADAM B. SAFER**, Math/Science Division, South Georgia College, Douglas, Georgia 31533, USA (e-mail: Adam.Safer@sgc.edu); **DIRK J. STEVENSON**, The Orianne Society, 414 Club Drive, Hinesville, Georgia 31313, USA (e-mail: dstevenson@oriantesociety.org).

**EPICRATES CENCHRIA (Rainbow Boa). DIET AND FORAGING BEHAVIOR.** Predation on bats by snakes has been reported infrequently. Esbérard and Vrcibradic (2007. Rev. Brasil. Zool. 24:949–953) reviewed this phenomenon in the Neotropics and

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FIG. 1. *Epicrates cenchria* preying on *Lonchorhina aurita* in Pedra Branca Cave, Sergipe, Brazil.

reported 40 records involving 20 snake species, with half of the events involving boids, particularly species of the genus *Epicrates*. *Epicrates cenchria* is a semi-arboreal species with a diet that includes birds, reptiles (lizards), amphibians, and mammals (Bernarde and Abe 2010. *Biota Neotrop.* 10:167–173; HENDERSON 1993. *Herpetol. Nat. Hist.* 1:91–96). This species may hunt actively inside caves, or lie in wait at the entrance to capture bats in flight (Esbérard and Vrcibradic, *op. cit.*). Similar behavior has been observed in *Epicrates* in Cuba (Hardy 1957. *Copeia* 1957:151–152), but there are few records of this phenomenon in Brazil, and none in cave environments. Here we report predation of a bat (*Lonchorhina aurita*) by an *E. cenchria* in a cave in the Brazilian state of Sergipe.

On the morning of 30 October 2010, we observed an *E. cenchria* preying on a bat, *L. aurita* (Fig. 1), in Pedra Branca Cave, municipality of Maruim, Sergipe, Brazil (10.776°S, 37.145°W, datum WGS84). Pedra Branca is registered as cave number SE-06 by the Brazilian Speleological Society. It is a 100 m-long limestone cave, with an entrance 1.10 m wide and 0.63 m high. The cave is located within an area of permanent protection in a fragment of secondary Atlantic Forest and mangrove vegetation, 20 m from the Sergipe River. Four bat species are found in this cave: *Carollia perspicillata*, *Desmodus rotundus*, *Phyllostomus hastatus*, and *L. aurita*. The event was first observed in the constriction phase, which lasted at least four minutes. During other visits to the cave, an *E. cenchria* was observed near the entrance, although it is not known if it was the same individual.

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**CHRISTIANE RAMOS DONATO**, Programa de Pós-graduação em Desenvolvimento e Meio Ambiente, Universidade Federal de Sergipe, São Cristóvão, SE, Brazil (e-mail: christianecrd@yahoo.com.br); **MÁRIO ANDRÉ TRINDADE DANTAS**, Programa de Pós-graduação em Ecologia, Conservação e Manejo da Vida Silvestre, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Belo Horizonte, MG, Brazil; **PATRÍCIO ADRIANO DA ROCHA**, Programa de Pós-graduação em Zoologia, Universidade Federal da Paraíba, João Pessoa, PB, Brazil.

**EPICHTIA MUNOAI (Uruguayan Blindsnake). AGGREGATION.** In July 2004 we discovered an unusually large aggregation of *Epichtia munoai* during an ecological study along the road RS 615 in

the region from Bagé to Candiota, Brazil (30.5°–31°S, 54°–54.5°W; elev. 200–220 m). The region consists of a grassy plain with many termite nests. Using a lever to open a large number of nests, we dug out galleries in which we found hundreds of specimens of *E. munoai*. All of the nests examined contained snakes, both adults and young. We collected a sample of 30 specimens for the herpetological collection of the Museu de Ciências e Tecnologia, in Porto Alegre, RS Brazil (MCTP). Several specimens had termite nymphs in their mouths. We examined the digestive tracts of about 20 specimens and all were found to have eaten nymphs. Additional surveys in the Bagé-Jaguarão to Candiota region consistently yielded many *E. munoai*, but few were found in surveys at lower elevations (Cazuza Ferreira, Encruzilhada do Sul, Porto Alegre, Santa Maria, Uruguaiana, all in RS). The total sample (about 100 specimens) is housed in the collection of Museu de Ciências Naturais of the Fundação Zoobotânica, Porto Alegre (MCNRS).

McCoy (1960. *Copeia* 1960:368) described a large aggregation of *Leptotyphlops dulcis dissectus* in Oklahoma, USA, which he suggested might be related to reproduction. Rafael Lucchesi Ballestrin (pers. comm.) and Arlete Ballestrin Outeiral (2006. Doctoral dissertation, Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul) both studied the snakes of the Serra do Sudeste (RS) and commented on the rarity of *E. munoai* in hot seasons, when they are most frequently found under rocks. Our observations, however, agree with Hibbard (1964. *Copeia* 1964:222), who noticed a breeding colony of the species, concluding that it is gregarious.

**THALES DE LEMA**, Department of Biology, School of Biosciences, Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre, RS 90619-900, Brazil (e-mail: thalesdelema@terra.com.br); **CARLOS PRADELLA DOTTO**, Biology Course, Fundação Átila Taborda, Rua Marcílio Dias, 1515, Bagé, RS 96400-021, Brazil.

**ERYTHROLAMPRUS MIMUS (Stripe-bellied False Coralsnake).**

**DIET.** *Erythrolamprus mimus* is a relatively uncommon terrestrial and diurnal or crepuscular snake that ranges from Honduras to Peru and Ecuador. The diet is known to include small to medium-sized snakes and lizards (Savage 2002. *The Amphibians and Reptiles of Costa Rica*. Univ. Chicago Press, Chicago, Illinois. 934 pp.; Solórzano 2004. *Snakes of Costa Rica: Distribution, Taxonomy, and Natural History*. Instituto Nacional de Biodiversidad, Santo Domingo de Heredia, Costa Rica. 791 pp.) but also includes small frogs.

On 1 May 2011, at 1130 h, an adult *E. mimus* (SVL ca. 53 cm; US National Museum Field Series[USNM] 254191) was collected dead on the road on the entrance road to El Copé, Coclé Province, Republic of Panama (08.62343°N, 080.57100°W, datum WGS84), between the communities of Las Tablas and Las Tibias. The snake was split open and protruding from the body wall was a caecilian, presumably *Caecilia volcani* (USNM 254194). The anterior 21.6 cm of the caecilian was undigested. Anterior to the caecilian was a *Liotyphlops albirostris* (USNM 254195), also protruding from the body wall of the snake. The posterior 14.3 cm of the snake remained undigested. Both prey items were consumed tail-first, as suggested for ophidian prey consumed by *E. mimus* by Solórzano (*op. cit.*). This is the first record of *E. mimus* or other members of the genus feeding on a caecilian or non-colubrid snake.

**JULIE M. RAY** (e-mail: julie.ray@lamica.org) and **PABLO SANTANA**, La MICA Biological Station, El Copé de La Pintada, Coclé Province, Republic of Panama.