

the second black, with sharply defined edges. The inner rings are red with a yellow center but, with indistinct edges bleed into one another. The venter is nearly uniform red with minute black specks, occurring on a few scales, and some yellow from the dorsal blotches entering onto the extreme lateral edges of some ventrals. The subcaudals are predominantly orange, with a "wash" of red appearing at the medium seams of the divided subcaudals. We thank Houston Zoo, Inc. for consent to report on this unusual specimen.

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NERODIA FLORIDANA (Florida Green Watersnake). DIET. *Nerodia floridana*, North America's largest watersnake, occupies most of Florida, small parts of southern Alabama and Georgia, and a portion of southern South Carolina. Fish and adult frogs have been reported to comprise the bulk of its diet; however, it has also been known to consume salamanders, tadpoles, small turtles, and invertebrates (Ashton and Ashton 1981. Handbook of Reptiles and Amphibians of Florida. Part 1. The Snakes. Windward Publ., Miami, Florida. 176 pp.). Here we report several new diet records for *N. floridana*.

In the course of long-term monitoring of aquatic snake populations on the U.S Department of Energy's Savannah River Site (SRS), Aiken and Barnwell counties, South Carolina, USA, we documented the following diet items from individual *N. floridana* captured in plastic minnow traps: 6 June 2006 (33.286533°N, 81.488019°W, datum WGS84), *Erimyzon sucetta* (Lake Chub-sucker); 1 July 2006 (33.255185°N, 81.585210°W), *Lepomis gulosus* (Warmouth) and *Lithobates sphenoccephalus* (Southern Leopard Frog); 29 March 2007 (33.161047°N, 81.692606°W), two larval *Ambystoma opacum* (Marbled Salamander); 25 June 2008 (33.161047°N, 81.692606°W), two *Acantharchus pomotis* (Mud Sunfish; total length = 48 and 75 mm). On 2 July 2010, a *N. floridana* (SVL = 534 mm) was collected dead in hoop trap set for turtles at Pond 2 on the SRS (33.255185°N, 81.585210°W). Dissection revealed two crayfish (species not determined). No additional prey were found, indicating this was not a case of secondary ingestion. Crayfish are considered a rare diet item for *Nerodia* spp. and have not been documented in *N. floridana* (Gibbons and Dorcas 2004. North American Watersnakes: a Natural History. Univ. Oklahoma Press, Norman. 438 pp.). Finally, at 2025 h on 18 December 2012, an adult *N. floridana* (SVL = ~ 70 cm) was

seen consuming a large *Ameiurus* sp. (bullhead catfish; Fig. 1) at the edge of a wetland in Grassy Waters Preserve (26.816926°N, 80.174894°W), Palm Beach Co., Florida, USA.

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NERODIA SIPEDON (Northern Watersnake). DIET. Although Gibbons and Dorcas (2004. North American Watersnakes: a Natural History. Univ. Oklahoma Press, Norman. 438 pp.) listed eight species of ictalurid catfish that have been reported in the diet of *Nerodia sipedon*, their list did not include *Pyloodictis olivaris* (Flathead Catfish). On 4 September 2012, we encountered an adult *N. sipedon* (total length = 95 cm) in the process of swallowing a juvenile *P. olivaris* (total length = 26 cm). They were found in shallow water along the shoreline of Pollander Lake, an Upper Mississippi River backwater, immediately upstream from the spillway that extends from Lock and Dam 5A to the Minnesota shoreline, Winona Co., Minnesota, USA (44.080°N, 91.684°W; datum WGS 84). The snake had swallowed most of the head of the catfish, which was still alive when they were observed. Previously, *P. olivaris* has been found in the diet of three other *Nerodia* species (Gibbons and Dorcas, *op. cit.*; Tyson et al. 2008. Herpetol. Rev. 39:472).

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PELAMIS PLATURA (Yellow-bellied Seasnake). REPRODUCTION / MATING BEHAVIOR. The elapid seasnake *Pelamis platura* has the widest distribution range of any snake, including most of tropical and subtropical Pacific and Indian oceans from Central America to Madagascar. Its reproductive cycle is considered to be continuous throughout the year (Ineich 1988. L'Année Biologique, 4ème sér. 27:93–117) but two birthing peaks have been reported in Costa Rica, one in December and January and another in July and August (Solorzano 2004. Serpientes de Costa Rica. Editorial INBio, Santo Domingo Heredia, Costa Rica. 791 pp.). Solorzano and Sasa (2011. Herpetol. Rev. 42:443–444)



FIG. 1. *Nerodia floridana* consuming an *Ameiurus* sp. (bullhead catfish) at Grassy Waters Preserve, Palm Beach Co., Florida, USA.

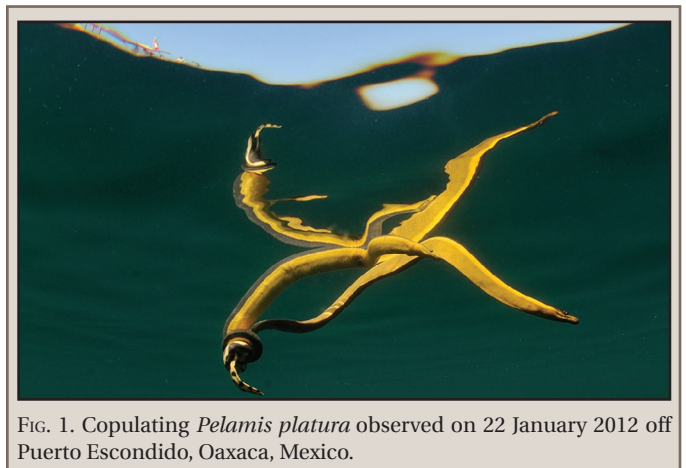


FIG. 1. Copulating *Pelamis platura* observed on 22 January 2012 off Puerto Escondido, Oaxaca, Mexico.

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