



FIG. 1. Adult female *Dilocarcinus pagei* feeding on a partly decomposed juvenile *Helicops leopardinus*.

**RODRIGO TAVARES-PINHEIRO, RODRIGO RENTE, JACKSON C. SOUSA, PATRICK R. SANCHES, and CARLOS E. COSTA-CAMPOS**, Laboratório de Herpetologia, Departamento de Ciências Biológicas e da Saúde, Universidade Federal do Amapá, Campus Marco Zero do Equador, 68.903-419, Macapá, AP, Brazil (e-mail: eduardocampos@unifap.br).

**HETERODON NASICUS (Western Hog-nosed Snake). MORTALITY / PLASTIC MESH ENTANGLEMENT.** Plastic mesh designed for soil erosion control and/or horticultural pest exclusion has been demonstrated to be a real hazard to wildlife (e.g., Dean et al. 2005. *Herpetol. Rev.* 36:179–180), especially snakes (review in Kapfer and Paloski 2011. *Herpetol. Conserv. Biol.* 6:1–9). Mesh used for soil erosion control has been found to be responsible for mortality in at least 14 snake species (nine genera) to date



FIG. 1. Adult female *Heterodon nasicus* that died in western Nebraska from exposure after entanglement in plastic mesh used for soil erosion control.

(Walley 1963. *Herpetologica* 19:216; Bonine et al. 2004. *Herpetol. Rev.* 35:176–177; Barton and Kinkead 2005. *J. Soil Water Conserv.* 60:33A–35A; Walley et al. 2005. *J. Kansas Herpetol.* 16:26–28; Low 2005. *J. Kansas Herpetol.* 13:9; Kapfer and Paloski 2011. *Herpetol. Conserv. Biol.* 6:1–9; and references therein), representing habitats from tall grass prairies in Kansas eastward to eastern deciduous forest in South Carolina. On 29 May 2012 we discovered a recently deceased adult female *H. nasicus* entangled in soil erosion mesh adjacent to the headquarters of the Crescent Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Garden County, Nebraska (41.83326°N, 102.34213°W; WGS 84) in mid-grass prairie grassland in high plains habitat (Fig. 1). Our observation adds to the list of species and habitats susceptible to the hazards of plastic mesh, and argues for a ban on the use of this hazardous material.

**JOHN B. IVERSON**, Department of Biology, Earlham College, Richmond, Indiana 47374, USA (e-mail: johni@earlham.edu); **ANDREW M. DURSO**, Department of Biology, Utah State University, Logan, Utah 84322, USA (e-mail: amdurso@gmail.com).

**INDOTYPHLOPS BRAMINUS (Brahminy Blindsnake). SPIDER PREDATION.** *Indotyphlops braminus* is presumed to be native to southern Asia, and currently has a pantropical distribution facilitated by human travels (Kraus 2009. *Alien Reptiles and Amphibians*. Springer, Berlin. 563 pp.). Due to fossorial habits, little is known about its predators within its introduced range. At midnight (0006 h) on 11 June 2016, we found an *I. braminus* (total length = 70 mm) trapped in the web of a Marron Widow spider (*Latrodectus geometricus*), 30 cm from the floor in a garden house in Zaachila, Oaxaca, Mexico (16.95539°N, 96.75181°W, WGS 84; 1521 m elev.). When found, the spider was still feeding on the snake (Fig. 1). *Latrodectus* spiders are known capture small reptiles, including snakes (Neill 1948. *Herpetologica* 4:158; Raven 1990. *Mem. Queensland Mus.* 29:448; Ervin and Carroll 2007. *Herpetol. Rev.* 38:468; Hódar and Sánchez Pedrero 2002. *J. Zool. Lond* 257:101–109).



FIG. 1. A Marron Widow (*Latrodectus geometricus*) consuming an *Indotyphlops braminus* in Zaachila, Oaxaca, Mexico.

**MATÍAS MARTÍNEZ-CORONEL** (e-mail: marti17@hotmail.com) and **ALEJANDRO NAVARRETE-JIMÉNEZ**, Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana-Iztapalapa. Av. San Rafael Atlixco 186, Del. Iztapalapa, CP 09240, Ciudad de México, México.

**LAMPROPELTIS CALLIGASTER (Prairie Kingsnake). MAXIMUM SIZE.** *Lampropeltis calligaster* is a moderately large, fossorial kingsnake that is widely distributed in the central and

eastern United States. It has traditionally been divided into three subspecies, which may warrant full species status (McKelvy and Burbrink 2017. *Mol. Phylog. Evol.* 106:61–72), with snakes from the western clade attaining the greatest size. Bird et al. (2005. *J. Kansas Herpetol.* 15:12) reported a 143 cm total length (TL) specimen from Kentucky, USA, which exceeded the previously reported maximum of 142.2 cm TL, based on a specimen collected in 1982 near Houston, Texas (Boundy 1995. *Bull Chicago Herpetol. Soc.* 30:109–122). Record TLs for *L. calligaster* from the northwestern portions of the species' range in Kansas and Missouri are 132.4 and 130.6 cm, respectively (Johnson 2000. *The Amphibians and Reptiles of Missouri*. Missouri Department of Conservation, Jefferson City. 400 pp.; Collins et al. 2010. *Amphibians, Reptiles, and Turtles in Kansas*. Eagle Mountain Publishing, Eagle Mountain, Utah. 311 pp.). Here we report body sizes of *L. calligaster* from restored prairie sites in northwestern Arkansas, USA. Our records indicate an unusually high frequency of large individuals in this region, including four specimens exceeding the previously reported maximum size for the species.

Between 2014 and 2018 we conducted intensive snake surveys at Woolsey Wet Prairie Sanctuary (36.06692°N, 94.23353°W; WGS 84), a prairie remnant located in Washington County, Arkansas, that was previously degraded by low intensity agriculture (Baecher et al. 2018. *Wetlands* 38:157–168). Eighteen hectares of the site were restored in 2006 as mitigation for construction of the City of Fayetteville's West Side Water Treatment Plant and this section has been managed using prescribed fire and mechanical/herbicide vegetation management since that time. We captured 95 *L. calligaster* ranging from 24.6 to 150.1 cm TL (Fig. 1), and a substantial

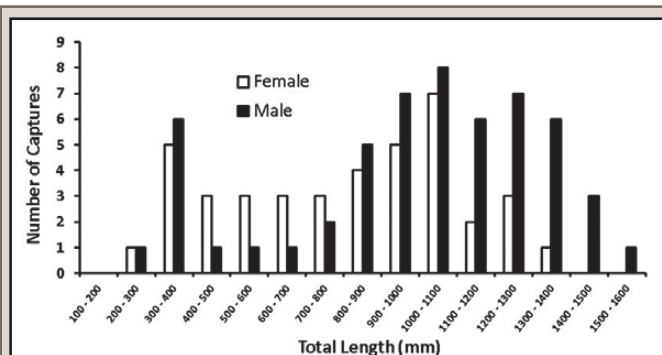


FIG. 1. Size frequency histogram of *Lampropeltis calligaster* (N = 84) captured at Woolsey Wet Prairie Preserve in Northwest Arkansas, USA, between 2014 and 2017.



FIG. 2. Photo of an exceptionally large (total length = 155.0 cm) *Lampropeltis calligaster* captured at Presson-Oglesby Preserve in Franklin County, Arkansas, USA, in April 2018.

proportion of individuals were unusually large. Specifically, 10 males (18% of captures) and 1 female (3% of captures) were >130.0 cm TL, and three males exceeded the previous record size of 143 cm. The first was captured by hand on 19 March 2017 and measured 148.0 cm TL (SVL = 129.1 cm; tail length = 18.9 cm; 824.85 g), but had a stubbed tail. The second was hand-captured on 8 April 2017 and measured 144.4 cm TL (SVL = 126.0 cm; tail length = 18.4 cm; 586.67 g). The third was captured under a coverboard on 10 May 2018 and measured 151.0 cm TL (SVL = 131.0 cm; tail length = 20.0 cm; 826.92 g). In 2018, we expanded surveys to other similarly managed prairie restoration sites in the region. On 10 April 2018, we hand-captured a 144.9 cm TL male (SVL = 125.5 cm; tail length = 19.4 cm; 851.55 g) at Chesney Prairie, Washington County, Arkansas (36.21976°N, 94.48447°W; WGS 84) and on 29 April 2018 we hand-captured a 155.0 cm TL male (Fig. 2; SVL = 134.0 cm; tail length = 21.0 cm; 854.32 g) at Presson-Oglesby Preserve, Franklin County, Arkansas (35.34783°N, 94.01559°W; WGS 84). Chesney Prairie is owned by the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission and Presson-Oglesby Preserve is owned by The Nature Conservancy. To our knowledge, 155.0 cm TL represents the new maximum reported size for *L. calligaster*. These results suggest that management practices at these prairies have created conditions (habitat, prey availability) conducive to *L. calligaster* attaining exceptionally large body sizes.

We thank the city of Fayetteville, the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission, The Nature Conservancy, and Woolsey Wet Prairie Sanctuary, especially Bruce Shackleford and Joe Woolbright, for site access and support. Funding was provided by the University of Arkansas, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, the Arkansas Audubon Society Trust, and Ozark Ecological Restorations, Inc.

**CHELSEA KROSS, MAX CARNES-MASON, BAILEY SINGLETON,**

Department of Biological Sciences, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701, USA; **JEFF HICKLE**, Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc., Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701, USA; **JOHN D. WILLSON**, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701, USA (e-mail: jwillson@uark.edu).

**LAMPROPELTIS EXTENUATA (Short-tailed Kingsnake). DIET.**

*Lampropeltis extenuata* is endemic to north-central peninsular Florida, USA, west of the St. Johns River. This upland habitat specialist is found in xeric habitats such as sandhills, sand pine and oak scrubs, and xeric hammocks. Our understanding of the diet of this species is based almost entirely on observations of captives, which have typically accepted only small snakes,



FIG. 1. A recently ingested *Rhineura floridana* recovered from a road-killed adult *Lampropeltis extenuata* (Putnam County, Florida, USA).

PHOTO BY DANIEL D. DYER