

TABLE 1. Monthly stages in the testicular cycle of 13 adult male *Platycephalus collaris* from Israel.

Month	N	Regressed	Recrudescence	Spermiogenesis
January	2	0	2	0
March	2	0	2	0
April	2	0	0	2
May	3	0	0	3
June	1	0	0	1
July	2	1	0	1
December	1	0	1	0

spermatocytes predominate; (3) spermiogenesis, seminiferous tubules are lined by sperm or clusters of metamorphosing spermatids. The smallest reproductively active male (TAUM 4540) exhibited spermiogenesis and was collected in June. The period of sperm production encompassed April into July. This period of sperm production is compatible with the times of egg deposition in *P. collaris* in Bar and Haimovitch (*op. cit.*) (August) and Stojanov (*op. cit.*) (July).

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PSEUDOBOA NIGRA (Black False Boa). ENDOPARASITES. Pentastomids are common parasites of vertebrate respiratory tracts, especially of reptiles (Riley 1986. *Adv. Parasitol.* 25:45–128). *Raillietiella furcocerca* is a generalist parasite and is known to infect eight species of snakes (Almeida et al. 2008. *Braz. J. Biol.* 68:201–205). Herein, we report the presence of *R. furcocerca* as a parasite of a ninth species, *Pseudoboa nigra*. On 28 January 2011, at ca. 2200 h, we collected a road-killed specimen of *P. nigra* near the municipality of Chupinguaia, Rondônia state, Brazil and deposited it at Coleção Zoológica de Vertebrados da Universidade Federal de Mato Grosso, Cuiabá, Brazil (UFMT-R 9504). The respiratory tract of the snake was removed and a search for pentastomids was carried out under stereomicroscopy. One adult female *Raillietiella furcocerca* was found in the nasopharynx. After identification, the material was deposited in the Parasitological Collection of the Universidade Regional do Cariri (URCA-P 400).

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PYTHON MOLURUS BIVITTATUS (Burmese Python). MINIMUM SIZE AT MATURITY. *Python molurus* is one of the largest snakes in the world and has been a mainstay of the pet trade for several decades, resulting in establishment of an invasive population in South Florida. Ironically, the biology of this species in its native range is poorly known and we know considerably more about the invasive population than we do about native populations in Asia. *Python molurus* in Florida are known to grow to



FIG. 1. Female *Python molurus bivittatus* measuring 210 cm total length (185 cm SVL) and containing eleven viable eggs collected in Everglades National Park, Florida, representing the smallest known wild gravid female of the species.

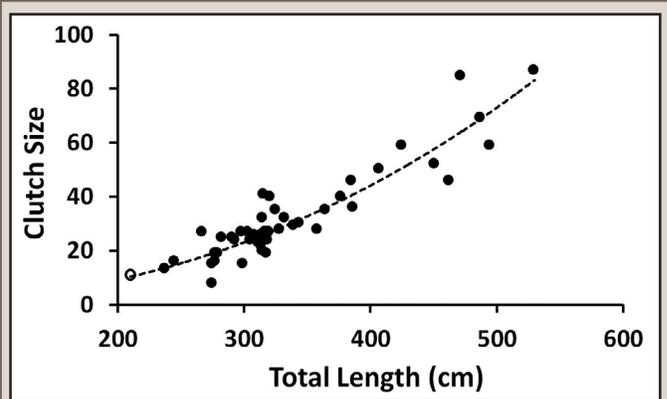


FIG. 2. Relationship between body length and clutch size for 49 female *Python molurus* removed from the invasive population in South Florida. Clutch size includes oviductal and brooded eggs, whether viable or unfertilized. The female described in this note is indicated by an open point.

over 5 m total length with clutch sizes of up to 87 eggs (Krysko et al. 2012. *IRCF Reptiles and Amphibians* 19:267–270). However, we still know little about patterns of growth, maturation, and reproduction in wild *P. molurus*. Here we report the smallest gravid female *P. molurus* found thus far in the wild.

At 2252 h on 27 May 2013 (22.8°C; light rain) a female *P. molurus* (Everglades National Park Accession # EVER-00888; Catalog # EVER 80679) was captured crossing the Main Park Road in Everglades National Park, in the vicinity of Paurotis Pond (25.28367°N, 80.798355°W; datum WGS84). When euthanized and necropsied, the snake (SVL = 185 cm, total length = 210 cm, mass = 5096 g) was found to contain 11 oviductal, shelled eggs (Fig. 1). All eggs were viable, based on the presence of developing embryos. This is the smallest gravid female *P. molurus* captured in Florida, 23 cm shorter (SVL) than the next smallest gravid female (Fig. 2). The clutch size is among the smallest reported in Florida, but is slightly larger than expected based on body length-clutch size relationships for females in this population (Fig. 2). Older literature sources have reported that female *P. molurus* reach maturity at around 270 cm total length, substantially longer than this individual (Wall 1921. *Ophidia Taprobanica or the Snakes of Ceylon*. Government Printer, Colombo. 581 pp.; Lederer 1956. *Die Aquarien- und Terrarien-Zeitschrift* 9:243–248). We are unaware of any other published accounts of size at maturity for this species.

The relatively small size of this female suggests that *P. molurus* in Florida may reach maturity rapidly. Overfed captive individuals can easily attain body lengths greater than 200 cm in

one year (Ross and Marzec 1990. The Reproductive Husbandry of Pythons and Boas. Institute for Herpetological Research, Stanford, California. 270 pp.). Growth rates of wild *P. molurus*, either in Florida or in Asia, are unknown, but are undoubtedly slower. However, a demographic analysis of Florida *P. molurus* suggests that females reach 200 cm SVL by two years of age (Willson et al. 2010. Biol. Invasions 13:1493–1504). Taken together, these data suggest that at least some *P. molurus* in Florida reach reproductive maturity at age two. Rapid growth and high reproductive potential of this species are likely strong drivers of its success as an invasive species (Reed et al. 2012. Integr. Zool. 7:254–270).

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RHINOCHAILUS LECONTEI TESSELLATUS (Texas Longnose Snake). **PREDATION.** *Rhinocheilus lecontei tessellatus* is a small to medium-sized colubrid snake distributed across the western two-thirds of Texas (Dixon 2013. Amphibians and Reptiles of Texas. Texas A&M Univ. Press, College Station. 447 pp.). Little is known concerning the natural history of *R. lecontei*, which probably reflects its nocturnal nature. The few documented predators of *R. lecontei* include a conspecific (Lane 2009. Herpetol. Rev. 40:358), *Coluber* (= *Masticophis*) *flagellum* (Coachwhip; Kasper 2013. Herpetol. Rev. 44:334), and nesting *Buteo jamaicensis* (Red-tailed Hawk; Steenhof and Kochert 1985. Oecologia 66:6–16). Herein I describe predation of *R. l. tessellatus* by a novel mammalian predator, *Ictidomys parvidens* (Rio Grande Ground Squirrel; previously considered a subspecies of the Mexican Ground Squirrel, *Spermophilus mexicanus parvidens*).

At ca. 0920 h on 22 May 2012, I observed a male *I. parvidens* running along a graded dirt road with an object dangling from its mouth at Lake Alan Henry Wildlife Mitigation Area, ca. 11 km S, 26 km W of Clairemont, Kent Co., Texas, USA. The squirrel came to a stop and fed for 1–2 minutes then dropped the item and retreated after I clapped my hands repeatedly. I salvaged a small section of the cloacal region of a male *R. l. tessellatus*. The very fresh condition of the remains indicated this was a predator-prey event and not carrion feeding. Also of note was the ground squirrel's feeding behavior. Of the 37 mm of remaining carcass, 19 mm was pre-vent and 18 mm was post-vent. Incisor marks indicated that the ground squirrel fed at both ends toward the vent almost evenly, undoubtedly segregating the cloacal area that contained pungent musk and/or feces produced prior to death. Generally an omnivore of seasonal vegetation and insect prey, *I. parvidens* is known to take carrion and some small living vertebrate prey (Davis and Schmidly 1994. The Mammals of Texas. Texas Parks and Wildlife Press, Austin. 338 pp.). This account documents both the first known mammalian predator of *R. lecontei*, and *I. parvidens* preying on any species of snake.

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SALVADORA BAIRDI (Baird's Patch-nosed Snake). **DIET.** Little is known about the diet of *Salvadora bairdi*. The literature mentions that it consumes amphibians, small mammals, and especially diurnal lizards and their eggs (Lemos-Espinal and Smith

2009. Anfibios y Reptiles del Estado de Chihuahua, México. UNAM, Tlalnepantla, México, México. 613 pp.; Uribe-Peña et al. 1999. Anfibios y Reptiles de las Serranías del Distrito Federal, México. Instituto de Biología, México, Distrito Federal, México. 119 pp.). However, no mammalian prey have been identified to species. Here we report the first record of predation on *Baiomys taylori* (Northern Pigmy Mouse) by *S. bairdi*.

On 28 July 2013, at 2020 h, a female *S. bairdi* (SVL = 585 mm; tail length = 210 mm; 30 g) was found beneath a rock at Mesa del Huarache, Municipality of Calvillo, Aguascalientes, Mexico (21.900171°N, 102.828405°W, datum WGS84; elev. 2321 m). The habitat at the location consists of grassland with patches of oak forest and tropical scrub forest ecotone. Manual palpation caused the snake to regurgitate a partially digested *B. taylori* (UAA-CV-R255), the only pigmy mouse known to occur in the area.

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THAMNOPHIS PULCHRILATUS (Yellow-throated Garter-snake). **DIET AND DEFENSIVE BEHAVIOR.** Virtually nothing is known about the natural history of *Thamnophis pulchrilatus*, but it is thought to consume leeches, worms, fish, and amphibians, like other mountain garter snakes (Rossman et al. 1996. The Garter Snakes: Evolution and Ecology. Animal Science Series, Univ. Oklahoma Press, Norman, 332 pp.; Ramírez-Bautista et al. 2009. Herpetofauna del Valle de México: Diversidad y Conservación. UAEH, CONABIO. Pachuca. 213 pp.). Additionally, its defensive behavior is unknown. Here we document a new species in the diet of *T. pulchrilatus* and its defensive behavior.

On 28 August 2013, at 2012 h, a female *T. pulchrilatus* (SVL = 434 mm; tail length = 109 mm; 11 g) was found beneath a rock at Mesa del Huarache, Municipality of Calvillo, Aguascalientes, México (21.907151°N, 102.825820°W, datum WGS84; elev. 2332 m). The habitat was grassland with patches of oak forest, and tropical scrub forest ecotone. When we flipped the stone, the snake tried to escape, and finally formed concentric rings, hiding the head, and raising its tail in sinuous movements while secreting musk. Following capture, the snake was palpated and regurgitated a partially digested *Hyla eximia* (Mountain Treefrog; UAA-CV-R257). Similarly, on 15 August 2013 at the same locality, another female (SVL = 510 mm; tail length = 132 mm; 20 g; 21.882258°N, 102.847628°W; elev. 2380 m) was discovered basking in the grass and displayed the same defensive behavior. On 12 June 2010, at Ciénega de Quijas, Sierra el Laurel, Aguascalientes (21.727264°N, 103.709210°W, datum WGS84; elev. 2362 m) another specimen was found beneath a rock. It flattened the anterior half of its body, including the head, showing the bright blue in the interspaces between the scales for at least 30 sec, then tried to escape.

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