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TANTILLA GRACILIS (Flathead Snake). **COURTSHIP**. *Tantilla gracilis* is a small, semi-fossorial, saxicolous snake that occurs in Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas, and southwestern Illinois (Trauth et al. 2004. The Amphibians and Reptiles of Arkansas. University of Arkansas Press, Fayetteville). In Louisiana and Texas, most individuals are collected from beneath rocks in spring or early summer, with gravid females found in June and July and oviposition (clutch size of 2–3 eggs) occurring in these months (Dundee and Rossman 1989. The Amphibians and Reptiles of Louisiana. Louisiana State University Press, Baton Rouge; Cobb 1990. Southwest. Nat. 35:222–224). Relatively little is known about courtship in this species or when it occurs.

On 15 March 2008 at 1530 h CST, we captured an adult male (157 mm total length) and female (226 mm total length) together beneath a large sandstone rock (50 x 25 x 6 cm) in the Kisatchie Ranger District of Kisatchie National Forest, Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana (31.476611°N, 93.076361°W, 34 m elev., WGS84). The male was lying in a loose coil on top of the female with the posterior third of his body partially intertwined with hers. The vegetation of this habitat is dominated by Longleaf Pine and the area is actively managed for Red-cockaded Woodpeckers and had been recently burned (within a week of our observation). The terrain had a moderate slope, the ground was covered by a loose assortment of sandstone rocks, and there were a series of streams and springs that occurred at irregular intervals. Our observation is the first report of courtship behavior for this species and indicates that mating occurs as early as March in the southern portion of its range.

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THAMNOPHIS SIRTALIS FITCHI (Valley Gartersnake). **HABITAT AND BEHAVIOR**. *Thamnophis sirtalis* is the most widely distributed snake in North America and is typically found near both lentic and lotic waters in meadows, farms, and damp woodlands up to 1800 m (Behler and King 1991. The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Reptiles and Amphibians. Alfred A. Knopf, New York. 743 pp.). Here we describe *Thamnophis sirtalis fitchi* using the nest of *Neotoma fuscipes annectens* as a shelter.

On 27 September 2007, we disassembled four *N. f. annectens* nests in a willow (*Salix*) riparian woodland along the banks of Uvas-Carnadero Creek, Santa Clara County, California (36.9167°N, 121.5333°W, NAD27). From a nest built around a willow tree, we removed one adult *T. s. fitchi* and four juveniles from the lower level of the nest containing decomposing vegetation and relocated them to a leaf litter layer near the creek. Woodrat nests are probably attractive shelters and retreats for reptiles. Whereas larger snake species (e.g., *Crotalus* and *Pituophis*), might prey upon woodrats or their young while using the burrows, this is unlikely to be true of *T. sirtalis*. In this case, use of the burrows represents a commensal relationship in that the gartersnakes benefit from the use of the woodrat burrows, but the woodrats are largely unaffected by the interaction.

We thank N. R. Sisk, D. P. Newman, and S. I. Hagen for assistance. Permits and support provided by the California Department of Fish and Game, and the Santa Clara County Water District provided additional support.

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TROPIDOPHIS WRIGHTI (NCN). **NEONATES**. On 11 April 2001 an adult female *Tropidophis wrighti* (385 mm SVL, 50 mm tail length [TL], 17 g) was found in submontane rainforest in Altiplanicie El Toldo, Moa municipality, Holguín province, Cuba (20.45°N, 74.90°W). The female was held in captivity, provided water *ad libitum*, and was fed *Anolis sagrei*, *Eleutherodactylus* spp. and small *Bufo peltocephalus*. The snake shed on 21 May and 6 August 2001. On 27 August 2001, the female gave birth to three neonates: two live (124 mm SVL, 22 mm TL and 127 mm SVL, 21 mm TL) and one dead (136 mm SVL, 21 mm TL). I could not determine if the dead neonate had died before or after parturition. Two additional yolk masses (10 x 6 mm and 9 x 6 mm) found on 8 September 2001 indicated that two additional ova failed to develop. The female's mass after parturition was 15.5 g. On 29 September 2001, another female (ca. 40 mm total length) maintained in captivity and of unknown origin, gave birth to five neonates.

Our observations of litter size in *T. wrighti* fall within the range reported for other species of this genus (Schwartz and Henderson 1991. Amphibians and Reptiles of the West Indies: Descriptions, Distributions and Natural History. Univ. Florida Press, Gainesville; Powell et al. 1992. Bull. Chicago Herpetol. Soc. 27:116–117; Fong 2005. Herpetol. Rev. 36:118–119) and neonatal sizes reported here are similar to the only other record (Fernandez and Alonso 2005. Herpetol. Rev. 36:330).

I thank Luis M. Diaz and Josefina Blanco for assistance.

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VIRGINIA STRIATULA (Rough Earth Snake). **AGGREGATION AND URBAN HABITAT**. Snakes form aggregations in social and non-social contexts, such as courtship (e.g., Luiselli 1996. J. Zool. 239:731–740; Shine et al. 2005. Anim. Behav. 69:1251–1258), thermoregulation (Graves and Duvall 1987. Herpetologica 43:259–264), hibernation (Cobb et al. 2005. Southeast. Nat. 4:723–730), and refuge use (Gregory 2004. Herpetologica