

reported the first observation of mating behavior for the species. They observed copulating specimens floating at the sea surface in Costa Rica in August 2009. We here report a second copulation observation (Fig. 1) made in natural conditions off Puerto Escondido (Oaxaca, Mexico) ca. 4 km from the coast (15.60°N, 97.13°W, datum WGS84; 22 January 2012). Copulation occurred just below the water's surface, as in the first observation reported above, and lasted over 15 min; the diver (MD) left before its end. Both snakes moved repeatedly from vertical to horizontal position with their tails intertwined and most often maintained a vertical position. Water temperature was ca. 23°C. This is the second observation of mating behavior in the species and is consistent with a continuous or bimodal mating season in Central America.

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PHILODRYAS TRILINEATA (Argentina Mousehole Snake).

DIET. *Philodryas trilineata* is a large (maximum length = 200 cm) species endemic to the Monte biogeographic region in western Argentina (Giraud and Scrocchi 2002. *Smithson. Herpetol. Inform. Serv.* 132:1–53). The diet of *P. trilineata* is known to include birds, mammals, lizards, and other snakes; some individuals are known to hunt domestic fowl or rabbits (Cei 1993. *Reptiles del Noroeste, Nordeste y Este de la Argentina. Herpetofauna de las Selvas Subtropicales, Puna y Pampas. Mus. Reg. Sci. Nat. Torino.* 945 pp.; Laspiur et al. 2012. *Herpetol. Rev.* 43:151–152). Rodents are frequently reported as prey, but consistent data about diet of this species are lacking. Here we report the first vouchered case of predation by *P. trilineata* on *Microcavia australis*.

On 12 February 2011, at 1015 h, we collected an adult *P. trilineata* (total length = 1635 mm) near Puerto Madryn city, Chubut, Argentina (42.7894°S, 65.0049°W, datum WGS84; elev. 11 m). During transport to the laboratory, the snake regurgitated a partially digested juvenile *M. australis* (Fig. 1). Based on comparison with *Microcavia* specimens from Chubut (N = 33), we estimate a

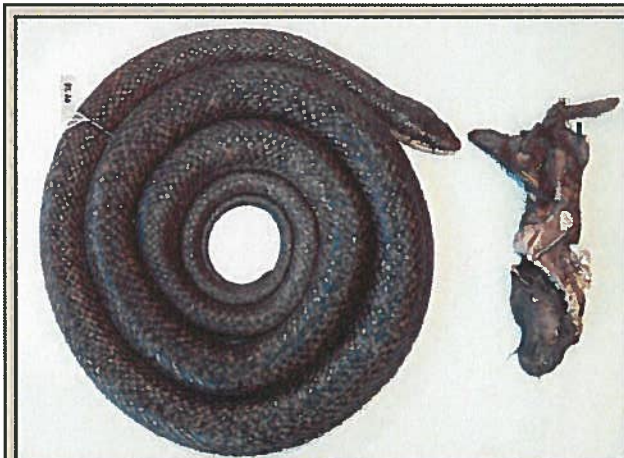


FIG. 1. *Philodryas trilineata* and partially digested adult *Microcavia australis* from Chubut Province, Argentina.

total length of 130 mm for the prey. The snake and its prey were deposited in the Herpetological Collection LJAMM of Centro Nacional Patagónico (LJAMM-CNP 8236). We thank D. Udrizar Sauthier for *Microcavia* identification and revision of comparative material.

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PITUOPHIS CATENIFER AFFINIS (Sonoran Gophersnake).

PREDATION. On 9 October 2012, 1400 h, one of us (ECB) found a juvenile *Pituophis catenifer affinis* (SVL ca. 500 mm) entangled with a *Scolopendra heros* (Giant Centipede; total length ca. 178 mm; photo voucher UAZ 57469-PSV) on a path near the western base of Cathedral Rock near Sedona, Yavapai Co., Arizona, USA (34.886467°N, 111.801529°W, datum WGS84; elev. 1524 m). When found, the centipede was wrapped around the posterior two thirds of the snake. The anterior one third of the snake was free, outstretched in an attempt to escape. The animals were dis-entangled and it became apparent that the centipede was indeed preying upon the snake. The latter exhibited a sizable mid-dorsal wound where the centipede had gnawed through the snake's back. When freed the gophersnake moved slowly away while the centipede rapidly departed.



FIG. 1. *Scolopendra heros* preying on a young-of-year *Pituophis catenifer*.

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PITUOPHIS CATENIFER (Gophersnake). **DIET.** *Pituophis catenifer* is primarily a predator of rodents, but also takes birds, bird eggs, and lizards (Rodríguez-Robles 2002. *Biol. J. Linn. Soc.* 77:165–183). Here we describe the first confirmed predation by *P. catenifer* on *Dipodomys ingens* (Giant Kangaroo Rat), a federally and state listed (endangered) species. *Pituophis catenifer* have been observed within colonies of *D. ingens*, and use their burrow systems as shelter (Williams and Kilburn 1991. *Mammalian Species* 377:1–7). On 12 December 2012 a *D. ingens* burrow system in the Carrizo Plain, San Luis Obispo Co., California, USA (35.3081°N, 119.8787°W; elev. 655 m) was being excavated for

preservation purposes. A female *P. catenifer* (SVL = 989 mm; tail length = 144) sheltering within the burrow was inadvertently fatally injured during the excavation process. Upon examining the snake a prey bolus was found and extracted. The prey was determined to be an adult male *D. ingens* based on hind foot length (48.8 mm). Predation on *D. ingens* by *P. catenifer* has long been suspected and our observation provides conclusive evidence. This predation event is also notable both due to the relative size of the prey item (88 adult male Giant Kangaroo Rats at this site averaged 123 g; s.d. \pm 12.9) and the time of the year. Although winter days in the Carrizo Plain can afford clear skies and moderate daytime temperatures, offering opportunities for heliothermic temperature regulation, nighttime temperatures frequently fall below 0°C, and prolonged periods of precipitation and cloud cover can occur. The anterior portion of this *D. ingens*, including the head, had been digested, suggesting that the snake had been able to maintain body temperatures sufficient to permit digestion despite the season. We thank M. Huisig, M. Hemenez, and B. Windecker for their assistance. SunPower Corporation and NRG Energy provided additional support.

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PLIOCERCUS ELAPOIDES (Variegated False Coralsnake). REPRODUCTION / CLUTCH SIZE. Little information has been published on the reproduction of *Pliocercus elapoides*. However, a clutch of 4–8 eggs (August deposition) is known from northern Guatemala (Köhler 2003. Reptiles of Central America. Herpeton, Verlag Elke Köhler, Offenbach. Germany. 367 pp.; Lee 2000. A Field Guide to the Amphibians and Reptiles of the Maya World, The Lowlands of Mexico, Northern Guatemala, and Belize. Cornell Univ. Press. Ithaca, New York. 402 pp.). The natural history of this uncommon species in Mexico is poorly known.

On 22 April 2010 at 1827 h, we found a female *P. elapoides* (UAA-CV 0355, SVL = 350 mm; tail length = 220 mm) in a montane cloud forest in the Sierra Madre Oriental at Alaquines, San Luis Potosí, México (22.122500°N, 99.504890°W, datum WGS84; elev. 1405 m). On 1 May 2010 at 0100 h (after nine days in captivity) she deposited seven eggs in a depression in the substrate below leaf litter. The eggs averaged 15 mm in length (SE = 0.8164).

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SPILOTES PULLATUS (Tiger Ratsnake). DIET. *Spilotes pullatus* is a diurnal generalist that typically feeds on small rodents, birds, and bird eggs (Hartmann et al. 2009. Pap. Avul. Zool. 49:343–360; Mendonça et al. 2011. Herpetol. Notes 4:425–427). On 11 December 2012, at 2145 h, on the property of Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation, ICMBIO (7.38383°S, 39.3544°W; datum WGS 84) in the Araripe National Forest, State of Ceará,

Brazil, we observed an attempted predation by *S. pullatus* on the eggs of *Turdus rufiventris* (Rufous-bellied Thrush). Predation was not successful due to “mobbing” behavior of the adult *T. rufiventris* (Yamamoto and Ades 2002. Rev. Etol. 4:75–94), followed by intense vocalization away from their nest. This is the first record of *S. pullatus* attempting predation on *T. rufiventris*.

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STORERIA DEKAYI (Dekay's Brownsnake). SEASONAL ACTIVITY. The annual activity period of *Storeria dekayi* varies with latitude (Ernst and Ernst. 2003. Snakes of the United States and Canada. Smithsonian Univ. Press, Washington, D.C. 668 pp.). Few data are available for northern populations, but Vogt (1981. Natural History of Amphibians and Reptiles of Wisconsin. Milwaukee Public Museum, Milwaukee. 205 pp.) stated that they emerge in late April and are most often seen in May and October as they cross roads while moving to and from hibernacula. Here I present data on activity of *S. dekayi* from a population on the western side of Pheasant Branch Marsh, Dane Co., Wisconsin, USA (43.110°N, 89.493°W; datum WGS 84; Cochran 1988. Bull. Chicago Herpetol. Soc. 23:69–71).

On most days from mid-1981 to mid-1984, I drove Pheasant Branch Road along the slope of a ground moraine adjacent to marsh and observed *S. dekayi* on the road only during spring and fall (Fig. 1). The only three living individuals were recorded on 2 May, 11 May, and 5 October, consistent with the dates for the 25 dead snakes. Mean first sighting date for 1982–1984 was 26 April

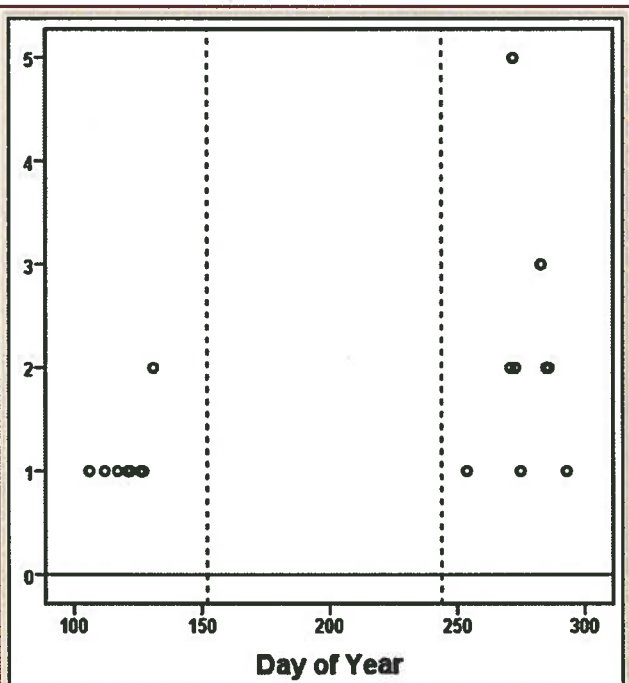


FIG. 1. Dot plot showing dates on which *Storeria dekayi* were observed on Pheasant Branch Road, Dane Co., Wisconsin (N = 25 dead and 3 living snakes). The dashed vertical lines indicate 1 June and 1 September.