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CROTALUS RAVUS (Mexican Pygmy Rattlesnake). **DIET.** There are few reports regarding the feeding habits of *Crotalus ravus*. However, lizards (*Sceloporus grammicus*, *S. megalepidurus*), mammals (*Mus musculus*, *Microtus mexicanus*), and insects (Hemiptera and Orthoptera) have been reported in the diet of this species (Uribe-Peña et al. 1999. *Anfibios y Reptiles de las Serranías del Distrito Federal, México*. Instituto de Biología, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. 119 pp.; Mendoza-Hernández et al. 2004. *Herpetol. Rev.* 35:63).

In May 2001 we found a *C. ravus* at the base of a cactus (*Opuntia* sp.) near La Preciosa Lake (19.3678°N, 97.3867°W, WGS84; 2040 m), Las Minas, Puebla State, México. The snake was eating an adult *Sceloporus spinosus*. Photographic vouchers (MZFC 1604–05) are in the Herpetological Collection of Museo de Zoología, Facultad de Ciencias, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México.

Furthermore, on 12 May 2007 we collected an adult female *C. ravus* (167 mm SVL, 186 mm TL), in Delegación Magdalena Contreras (19.2879°N, 99.2670°W, WGS84; 2580 m) in the southern mountains of Distrito Federal, México. The specimen (MZFC 20902) was found crossing a trail in oak forest. A fragment of a snake tail was found in the snake's stomach. We identified the prey as *Thamnophis scalaris*, by comparing the tail fragment to the tails of other snakes collected in the same area. This is the first report of a snake in the diet of *C. ravus*.

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EUNETES MURINUS (Green Anaconda). **LONGEVITY.** Anacondas and other large reptiles tend to live many years and grow slowly later in life. However, long-term data on growth rates for wild snakes are in short supply. Here we report recapture of a *Eunectes murinus* after 13 years. These observations were made in the course of conducting an on-going mark-recapture project (running since 1992) in the Venezuelan llanos, Distrito Muñoz, Apure State (7.5°N, 69.3°W). All snakes were marked using scale clipping and by copying the ventral pattern covering the first 15 subcaudal scales (Rivas et al. 2007. *In Henderson and Powell [eds.], Biology of the Boas and Pythons*, pp. 128–138. Eagle Mountain Publishing Company, Eagle Mountain, Utah).

On 27 August 1994 we captured a female (E548, 324 cm SVL, 21 kg). Thirteen years later on 19 March 2007, we caught E548 again and although the scale clipping mark was difficult to read, we were able to identify the individual unequivocally

by comparing the subcaudal pattern with our records. Upon recapture E548 measured 366 cm SVL and 25 kg. E548 was wounded, weakened, and had a subcutaneous nematode (possibly *Dracunculus* sp.) which has been found in other individuals in this population (Calle et al. 1994. *J. Zoo. Wild. Med.* 25:53–64).

This may be the longest recapture record of any individual snake in the wild. Twelve-year recaptures have been reported by Madsen and Shine (2000. *J. Anim. Ecol.* 69:952–958). It is surprising that in 13 years E548 only grew 42 cm. It is expected that the growth rate of large reptiles will decrease towards older age (e.g., Madsen and Shine, *op. cit.*), but E548 is still far from the largest size recorded for this region (exceeding 500 cm, Rivas et al., *op. cit.*) and even further from other literature records. cursory evaluation of our mark/recapture data suggest that anacondas in the wild may take more than a decade to reach 320 cm SVL, so E548 could be in her mid-twenties or perhaps even older.

The harvest of anacondas have been present for more than two decades driven largely by demand for luxury snakeskin products in the global market (Waller et al. 2007. *In Henderson and Powell [eds.], Biology of the Boas and Pythons*, pp. 340–362. Eagle Mountain Publishing Company, Eagle Mountain, Utah). However, rural populations may also be increasing their harvest in response to changes associated with macroeconomic packages that are affecting much of South America (Rivas 2007. *Iguana*. 14:10–21). Nevertheless, a recent three-year study monitored the experimental harvest of wild *Eunectes noteus* (Yellow Anaconda) and concluded that harvest could be sustainable based primarily on high reproductive rates, large distribution, and low human density (Waller et al., *op. cit.*). However, if the extremely slow growth rate presented here is the norm, we believe that the notion of sustainability is suspect in regions with high harvest/mortality (see Rivas, *op. cit.*; Rivas et al. 1999. *Herpetol. Rev.* 30:101; Rivas 2000. Unpubl. Ph.D. dissertation, University of Tennessee. 287 pp.; Rivas et al. 2001. *Herpetol. Rev.* 32:107–108).

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FARANCIA ABACURA (Mud Snake). **PREDATION.** Few records exist regarding predators of *Farancia*. Palmer and Braswell (1995. *Reptiles of North Carolina*. University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill) reported that American Alligators (*Alligator mississippiensis*) and Cottonmouths (*Agkistrodon piscivorus*) consumed *Farancia abacura* and these appear to be their only documented predators. It has been suggested that birds of prey and wading birds predate mud snakes (Ernst and Ernst 2004. *The Snakes of the United States and Canada*. Smithsonian Press, Washington, D.C.) and birds have been used experimentally to elicit death feigning (Doody et al. 1996. *Herpetol. Rev.* 27:82–83). However, there are no records of birds preying upon Mud Snakes *in situ*.