

work is needed to determine factors that influence detectability of hatchling pythons, systematic road cruising on summer nights might be a useful method for assessing the reproductive status of *P. m. bivittatus* populations.

I thank M. Patel and J. Innis for sharing their observations, K. Wilson and the entire staff at CSSP for many kindnesses and field assistance, S. Snow for sharing observations, insights, and suggestions, T. Hingtgen for facilitating permits, R. Reed for advice, contacts, and support, D. W. Pearson for information, T. and M. Walters for lodging, and A. Flanagan for his python expertise and roadcruising camaraderie. The specimen was salvaged under permit from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

PAUL T. ANDREADIS, Department of Biology, Denison University, Granville, Ohio 43023, USA; e-mail: nerodia@denison.edu.

PYTHON SEBAE (Northern African Python or African Rock Python). **SIZE.** *Python sebae* is the largest snake in Africa, and one of the largest in the world. As with most giant snakes, *P. sebae* exhibits female-biased sexual size dimorphism. Although there are numerous claims about overall maximum size for this species (Murphy and Henderson 1997, *Tales of Giant Snakes*. Krieger Publ. Co., Malabar, Florida. 221 pp.), the largest individuals are likely females. Literature reviews suggest males attain maximum sizes of about 4 m total length and 30–40 kg (Reed and Rodda 2009, *Giant Constrictors: Biological and Management Profiles and an Establishment Risk Assessment for Nine Large Species of Pythons, Anacondas, and the Boa Constrictor*. U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 2009-1202, and references therein). Herein, we report on the largest known male *P. sebae* from an introduced population in Florida, possibly representing a new male size record for the entire species.

In response to a series of observations of *Python sebae* in the Bird Drive Basin area of western Miami (Miami-Dade Co., Florida, USA; Reed et al. 2010, *IRCF Reptiles and Amphibians 17:52–54*), an organized search for pythons was conducted during 12–14 January 2010; coincidentally, the search occurred just after a record prolonged cold snap in southern Florida during the first 11 days of January 2010. On 12 January 2010 at 1428 h (approx. 15°C ambient air temperature, with NNW winds at 15 kph), a male python was captured on a canal bank (25.7551°N, 80.4708°W, datum WGS84) by J. Dozier, D. Hazelton, and J. Prieto. The python was sluggish after a night during which temperatures in Miami dropped to 4.9°C, but later became active enough to partially escape from a bag that was not sufficient to fully contain it. The python exhibited no evidence of respiratory infection or other illness during initial examination, and was then euthanized. Body size was as follows: total length = 440 cm, SVL = 405 cm, maximal girth = 59 cm, 62.96 kg. The python was male, confirmed by voluntary eversion of hemipenes during capture, enlarged pelvic spurs, and observation of testes during necropsy. The skeleton, skin, and tissues from this specimen were accessioned into the Florida Museum of Natural History (UF 157217). Another large (total length = 376 cm, SVL = 336 cm, 32.9 kg) male was captured nearby during 12–14 January 2010, as were three adult females (total lengths 297–400 cm).

The larger male *Python sebae* is notable not only for its length, but also for its mass; despite being captured during winter when feeding is likely uncommon, the python was in excellent body condition (9.25 kg of fat bodies were recovered from the carcass),

as were most of the four other pythons. Although larger individual *P. sebae* are known from the native range, most are confirmed or suspected to be female. Observations in Florida lend support to the proposal that sexual size dimorphism might be reduced in *P. sebae* as compared to *P. molurus* and other giant constrictors (Reed and Rodda 2009, *op. cit.*).

We thank G. Alexander, D. Broadley, R. Drewes, and L. Luiselli for input on body size of *P. sebae*.

ROBERT N. REED, USGS Fort Collins Science Center, 2150 Centre Ave, Bldg C, Fort Collins, Colorado 80526, USA (e-mail: reedr@usgs.gov); **DENNIS GIARDINA**, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Rookery Bay NERR, 300 Tower Rd, Naples, Florida 34113, USA; **TONY PERNAS**, National Park Service, Florida/Caribbean Exotic Plant Management Team, 18001 Old Cutler Rd, Suite 419, Palmetto Bay, Florida 33157, USA; **DALLAS HAZELTON**, JANE GRIFFIN DOZIER, JOSE PRIETO, Miami-Dade County Parks and Recreation, 22200 SW137 Ave, Miami, Florida 33170, USA; **RAY W. SNOW**, Everglades National Park, 40001 State Road 9336, Homestead, Florida 33034, USA; **KENNETH L. KRYSKO**, Florida Museum of Natural History, P.O. Box 117800, Dickinson Hall, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida 32611, USA.

RINECHIS SCALARIS (Ladder Snake). **MAXIMUM SIZE.** *Rinechis scalaris* is a large colubrid that inhabits most of the Iberian Peninsula, southeastern France, and areas of northwestern Italy (Arnold and Ovenden 2002, *Field Guide to the Reptiles and Amphibians of Britain and Europe*. Collins, London. 288 pp.). The maximum size previously recorded for the species was a 1570 mm total length (TL) female (Cheylan and Guillaume 1993, *In Böhme [ed.], Handbuch der Reptilien und Amphibien Europas*. Band 3/I: Schlangen [Serpentes] 1 [Typhlopidae, Boidae, Colubridae 1: Colubrinae], pp. 397–429. Aula-Verlag, Wiesbaden). However, that record was from an insular population that is known to contain an unusually high proportion of large individuals, reflecting a lack of large predators. In southwestern Spain, maximum SVL recorded was 1385 mm, with a mean tail length of 15.5% (Pleguezuelos 2006, *In Carrascal and Salvador [eds.], Enciclopedia Virtual de los Vertebrados Españoles*. Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales. Madrid). Generally, specimens greater than 1200 mm TL are rare (Arnold and Ovenden, *op. cit.*) and sexual size dimorphism has not been reported (Pleguezuelos, *op. cit.*).

On 20 September 2007, a male *R. scalaris* was received at the Centro de Rescate de Anfibios y Reptiles (Alcalá la Real, Spain). Measurements were: TL = 1650 mm (tail slightly incomplete); SVL = 1410 mm (measured using ImageJ images analysis software). The specimen was found in a building site on the outskirts of a medium-size village (37.46°N, 3.93°W, datum: ED50; elev. 1000 m), surrounded both by forest and agricultural landscape. High densities of large prey favored by male *R. scalaris* (e.g., *Rattus* sp.) can be found in this habitat (Palomo and Gisbert 2002, *Atlas de los Mamíferos Terrestres de España*. Dirección General de Conservación de la Naturaleza-SECEM-SECEMU, Madrid. 564 pp.), even though this species seldom uses urban areas (Pleguezuelos, *op. cit.*).

LUIS PEDRAJAS, Centro de Rescate de Anfibios y Reptiles, Plaza Arcipreste de Hita 1, 23680 Alcalá la Real, Spain; **FRANCISCO CEACERO**, Departamento de Ciencia y Tecnología Agroforestal y Genética, ETSIA, UCLM, Campus Universitario s/n, 02071 Albacete, Spain; **ENRIQUE GARCIA-MUÑOZ**, Departamento de Biología Animal, Biología Vegetal y Ecología. Campus de las Lagunillas S/N. Universidad de Jaén. E-23071 Jaén, Spain.