

SENTICOLIS TRIASPIS (Green Rat Snake). **MAXIMUM SIZE.** The maximum size attained by *Senticolis triaspis* is 1147 mm TL for females and 1213 mm TL for males (Lemos-Espinal and Smith 2007. Amphibians and Reptiles of the State of Chihuahua, México. Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México–Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad. 613 pp.). However, Vázquez and Quintero (2005. Anfíbios y Reptiles de Aguascalientes. Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad. 318 pp.) comment that this species exceeds 1500 mm TL, though they do not provide an exact length or cite a specimen.

On 29 June 2007 we captured an adult female *Senticolis triaspis* in Ejido El Tepeyac (18.4877°N, 96.8535°W; WGS84; 94 m), Tlacotepec de Díaz, Puebla, Mexico. The snake was found above a rock in Tropical Semideciduous forest. The specimen was deposited in the Museo de Zoología, Facultad de Ciencias, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (MZFC 20574). The specimen measured 1500 mm SVL and 1830 mm TL and represents the maximum size recorded for this species.

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SISTRURUS CATENATUS CATENATUS (Eastern Massasauga). **DIET.** Several studies report an ontogenetic dietary shift in *Sistrurus catenatus catenatus* with young age classes consuming snakes and older classes consuming small mammals (Holycross and Mackessy 2002. J. Herpetol. 36:454–464, and citations therein). Shepard et al. (2004. Am. Midl. Nat. 152:360–368) report that snakes were consumed by captive young of the year (YOY) *S. c. catenatus* in every case in which they were offered, but were not found in the stomach contents of free ranging YOY *S. c. catenatus* examined in southern Illinois. The following observations were made in the course of conducting a radio-telemetry study of YOY *S. c. catenatus* along the Upper Wapsipinicon River, Bremer County, Iowa, USA.

On 4 September 2007 at 1025 h, we captured a YOY male *S. c. catenatus* (188 mm SVL; 10 g) consuming a small snake, with only the tail still visible. The *S. c. catenatus* was retained for transmitter attachment and ca. three hours later it regurgitated an intact and undigested YOY *Ophedrys vernalis* (100 mm SVL; 2 g). On 15 September 2007, a second young of the year male *S. c. catenatus* (254 mm SVL; 35 g) was captured and also retained for transmitter attachment. Prior to release, it defecated and the feces contained snake skin, which we later identified as *O. vernalis* based on the presence of smooth scales (*O. vernalis* is the only snake species present at the study site possessing smooth scales). On 9 May 2006 at 1535 h, we found a previously marked subadult female *S. c. catenatus* (434 mm SVL; 100 g) basking in full sunlight with a large bulge at mid-body. While collecting

morphological data, she regurgitated an intact and undigested *Microtus pennsylvanicus* (155 mm total length, 55 g). The relative prey mass (RPM; prey mass/ snake mass) was 0.55, similar to the mean mass ratio of 0.47 reported by Shepard et al. (2004. *op. cit.*) for free-ranging YOY *S. c. catenatus* in Illinois.

Mauger and Wilson (1999. In Johnson and Wright [eds.] Second International Symposium and Workshop on the Conservation of the Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake, pp. 110–124. Toronto Zoo, Ontario) previously reported *O. vernalis* in the diet of two subadult (50–150 g) *S. c. catenatus* from northeastern Illinois. Ours is the second report of *O. vernalis* in the diet of *S. c. catenatus* (Holycross and Mackessy 2002, *op. cit.*) and the first in this size class. The observations reported here provide further evidence of an ontogenetic dietary shift in *S. c. catenatus*.

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SISTRURUS CATENATUS CATENATUS (Eastern Massasauga). **LEIOMYOMA.** Leiomyomas are benign, smooth muscle tumors usually arising from the gastrointestinal or female reproductive tract. We know of no report of this tumor in snakes although one of us has seen leiomyosarcoma in *Bogertophis subocularis* (Trans Pecos Ratsnake; ERJ, unpubl.). Leiomyosarcoma has been reported in a *Drymarchon corais erebennus* (Texas Indigo Snake) by Barten (1981. J. Amer. Vet. Med. Assoc. 179:1292–1295) and leiomyoma has been reported in a *Chelonia mydas* (Green Turtle) where it caused intestinal stricture (Helmick et al. 2000. J. Zoo Wildl. Med. 31:221–227). Here we report a large leiomyoma that appears to have caused the death of a captive *Sistrurus catenatus catenatus* (Eastern Massasauga). This appears to be the first report of any form of leiomyoma in a crotalid snake.

This 11-year-old snake (Drake University Research Collection, DURC 3913) was born 12 August 1972 shortly after the mother (DURC 3912) was captured by JLC on 25 June 1972 in Bremer County, Iowa. The specimen ate well until two months before its death approximately 2 January 1983 and appeared to be robust. Upon its death, the snake was preserved and placed in the Drake University Research Collection. Upon examination (during the course of conducting a reproductive study) the snake (ca. 570 mm TL) was found to have a large (ca. 154 × 27 mm) mass paralleling the atrophied intestinal tract and had almost no fat.

The mass was sectioned at both ends and routinely processed for light microscopy. Paraffin embedded 7 μm sections were stained with hematoxylin and eosin and examined. The mass consisted of interlacing bundles of spindle-shaped cells with an eosinophilic staining cytoplasm; cells were oriented in different planes. The nuclei were often elongate and had round to blunt ends and a distinct nucleolus was present. Sections stained with Mallory's trichrome stain did not show connective tissue (collagen) and no mitotic figures were seen. Scattered among the tumor cells were cross sections of blood vessels. There was no evidence of necrosis, invasion, or metastasis (Fig. 1).