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**CROTALUS TRISERIATUS** (Dusky Rattlesnake): **BODY TEMPERATURE.** The physiological ecology of rattlesnakes is a new field research; however recent studies offer intriguing glimpses that have significant bearing on our standing of their ecology and evolution (Campbell & Lamar, 2004). Nowadays, there are few reports about thermal ecology from this species group, specifically from *Crotalus*

*triseriatus* there are not studies about its thermal biology. Here we present first data of thermal ecology in this species.

From February to October 2007, we conducted field work in Magdalena Petlatalco, Delegación Magdalena Contreras, Sierra del Ajusco, México, Distrito Federal (19°13'15.5"N, 99°17'8.2"W, WGS84; elev. 3500 m). The climate is temperate semihumid (Cw) with a mean annual temperature of 7.5–13.5°C and a mean annual rainfall of 1340 mm (García, 1973). The vegetation is represented by pine forest (*Pinus hartwegii*) and zacatonal (*Muhlenbergia quadridentata*, *Festuca hephaestophila* and *Festuca amplissima*) (Álvarez del Castillo, 1989). The data presented are based on 15 captures. From each capture, body ( $T_b$ ), substrate ( $T_s$  at the exact point of observation) and air temperatures ( $T_a$  at 1 m above substrate) were measured to nearest 0.2°C with a Miller & Weber (0–50 ± 0.2°C) quick reading thermometer. We also recorded microhabitat type for each capture.

Mean body temperature of *C. triseriatus* was 20.83 ± 5.36°C (12–31°C;  $n = 15$ ). Mean substrate and air temperature were 16.64 ± 5.93°C (11.1–32°C) and 16.46 ± 3.64°C (12–22°C), respectively.

Body temperature and  $T_s$  were significantly correlated (Sperman Rank correlation:  $r_s = 0.5588$ ,  $P = 0.0471$ ), but  $T_b$  and  $T_a$  were not (Sperman Rank correlation:  $r_s = 0.4596$ ,  $P = 0.1141$ ). Most snakes were found under trunk ( $n = 8$ ), the remainder were found on ground ( $n = 6$ ) and vegetation ( $n = 1$ ).

Snakes living in temperate areas often encounter large temperature fluctuations and thus many have evolved strategies to maintain a preferred  $T_b$  (Peterson, 1987). *Crotalus triseriatus* has a high field body temperature which could be the result of behavioral thermoregulation selecting different microhabitats to maintain their preferred  $T_b$  as happens with other species (Graves & Duvall, 1993). Higher  $T_b$  may allow snakes to digest prey, speed the recrudescence of reproductive organs, and/or further the development of embryos (Graves & Duvall, 1987). As a result *C. triseriatus* may maintain a strong relation between  $T_s$  and  $T_b$ , which appears to have a strong effect on activity patterns in other *Crotalus* species (Jacob & Painter, 1980).

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## BOOK REVIEWS

### *Atlas des reptiles du Cameroun*

Laurent Chirio and Matthew Lebreton

2007. Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, IRD, Paris. 688 p.

This “Atlas” is an atlas in both the older, geographic meaning and the more recent use of this term for a volume of photographs. Weighing in at 1½ kg and 688 pages, this treatment of the reptiles of Cameroon is a heavyweight to hold, let alone to carry anywhere! The weight results from the luxuriant production we have come to expect of IRD, with abundant and sometimes superfluous use of colour for diagrams as well

as photographs. An introductory 20 pages provide background on geology, geography, climatology, topography and vegetation but with maps of vegetation and administrative districts but not climatology or topography. The core of the book (621 pages) is a systematic listing of Orders and Families and within the latter of each species by its scientific name in alphabetical sequence. The last is a welcome divergence from the usual practice of grouping by supposed affinities which is familiar to none other than a few aficionados. Indexes to scientific and French vernacular names appear at the end (pages 678-685) but not to English vernacular names although these are given in the text.