

and neonates are deposited in the New Brunswick Museum (NBM 011791, 011793–011810). Among the neonates were six stillborns, including the smallest individual missing an eye and with twisting of the vertebral column. Live borns ranged from 99.53–118.31 (mean = 110.6) mm SVL and 0.7–1.1 (mean = 0.90) g body weight (N = 12). Stillborns ranged from 81.03–105.18 (mean = 93.5) mm SVL and 0.7–0.9 (mean = 0.78) g (N = 6). Stillborn young appear to be a common feature of *T. sirtalis* litters. Gregory and Larsen (*op. cit.*) found that 49% of 162 captive-born litters included some stillborn neonates. Significant variation in litter and neonate size have been observed among Canadian populations of *T. sirtalis*, with those in eastern Canada producing smaller young and larger litters for females of a given size. Gregory and Larsen (*op. cit.*) hypothesize that reproductive traits differ genetically among populations of *T. sirtalis*, however features of the environment, including food and climate, also influence such traits. We found *T. s. pallidulus* uncommon in the Nepisiguit PNA, where cover is dense, second-growth, conifer-dominated forest offering few basking opportunities; standing water that might support abundant food for *T. s. pallidulus* was rare. Gregory and Larsen (*op. cit.*) report mean neonate body masses for *T. sirtalis* ranging from 1.66–3.00 g, with the mean body mass of 0.90 g reported here appearing to be the lowest on record for live born *T. sirtalis* neonates. While this fits a trend toward lower neonate body mass (and SVL) in eastern populations of *T. sirtalis*, it may also be the outcome of sub-optimal habitat in the Nepisiguit PNA. Neonate body masses for 10 *T. s. pallidulus* litters from mid-coastal Waldo County, Maine (1.22–1.99 [mean = 1.54] g; SVL 127–147 [mean = 136 mm] mm; J. D. Willson, pers. comm.), likewise fit the trend toward lower neonate body mass in the east, but also suggest the influence of marginal conditions in the Nepisiguit PNA. Further data on neonate body mass should be helpful in better understanding the relative contributions of genetic versus environmental factors to offspring size and fitness in *T. s. pallidulus*.

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TRACHYBOA BOULENGERI. DIET. *Trachyboa boulengeri* is a poorly known member of the Tropicodromiidae that inhabits evergreen lowland forests from the Chocó region of extreme eastern Panama through Pacific Colombia to Ecuador (Peters 1960. Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool. 122:490–541; Stimson 1969. Liste der rezenten Amphibien und Reptilien. Lief 89, Boidae. Verlag Walter de Gruyter, Berlin; McDiarmid et al. 1999. Snake Species of the World: A Taxonomic and Geographic Reference, Volume 1. The Herpetologists' League, Washington, D.C. 511 pp.; MECN 2009. Guía de Campo de los Pequeños Vertebrados del Distrito Metropolitano de Quito. Imprenta Editcar, Quito. 89 pp.; Ortega-Andrade et al. 2010. Check List 6:119–154). Observations reporting its diet in captivity include frogs and tadpoles (genera



FIG. 1. *Trachyboa boulengeri* feeding in a temporary pond on a catfish (Astroblebidae).



FIG. 2. *Trachyboa boulengeri* exhibiting fishing behavior along a stream.

Pristimantis, *Rhinella*, and *Gastrotheca*), and fish (Lehmann 1974. Salamandra 6:32–42; Arbeláez-Ortiz, pers. comm.; Barragan-Paladines, pers. comm.), but we have not been able to locate any records of feeding in the wild.

On 8 June 2017, we encountered a sub-adult *T. boulengeri* in a temporary pond along a small stream in Canandé, Esmeraldas Province, Ecuador (0.52993°N, 79.03541°W, WGS 84; 594 m elev.). The snake had its head and ca. 4 cm of its body underwater. We subsequently noticed a catfish belonging to the family Astroblebidae in the same pool, and coaxed the catfish to swim closer to the snake, whereupon the snake immediately seized and constricted the fish (Fig. 1). We observed the constriction process for ca. 30 min, after which the snake released the fish without having killed it, similar to the observation reported by Lehmann (*op. cit.*). Thus, we presume that coiling around this type of prey serves more to control it, rather than kill it, similar to the method used by other aquatic snakes such as *Acrochordus* and *Regina* (QD, unpubl. data).

At the same locality, on 21 February 2016, during a drizzly night at 2130 h, we observed a subadult *T. boulengeri* in damp leaf litter along a permanent pond in primary forest. The snake was feeding on a juvenile leptodactylid frog, *Leptodactylus melanonotus*.

Over the last several years we have observed 23 individuals of *T. boulengeri*, of which eight were displaying “fishing” behavior (Fig. 2). These observations suggest that fish probably are an

important part of the diet in some populations of *T. boulengeri*.

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TROPIDODIPSAS SARTORII. ABERRANT PATTERN. *Tropidodipsas sartorii* is a medium-sized (to 86 cm total length) dipsadid snake that ranges from northeastern Mexico to Nicaragua (Köhler 2008. Reptiles of Central America, 2nd ed. Herpeton Verlag, Offenbach. 400 pp.). The color pattern is variable and is characterized by cream, yellow, or red-orange rings on a black background (Kofron 1988. Amphibia-Reptilia 9:145-168). On 24 June 2017, at 2130 h, we encountered a subadult (total length ca. 43 cm) *T. sartorii* with an atypical color pattern (Fig. 1). Instead of narrow rings, the red bands were elongated, and some of these were joined laterally. The snake was found ca. 122 km ESE of Mérida, Municipio de Kaua, Yucatán, Mexico (20.64023°N, 88.48921°W, WGS 84; 32 m elev.). *Tropidodipsas sartorii* is a presumed coralsnake mimic (Torre-Loranca et al. 2006. Acta Zool. Mex. 22:11-22), and this individual was found in an area where the sympatric coralsnake (*Micrurus diastema*) displays considerable pattern variation (Blaney and Blaney 1979. Herpetologica 35:276-278; Campbell and Lamar 2004. The Venomous Reptiles of the Western Hemisphere. 2 vols. Comstock Publishing



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FIG. 1. Subadult *Tropidodipsas sartorii* from Yucatán, Mexico, with aberrant pattern.

Associates, Ithaca, New York. 870 + 28 pp. [see plates 59-78]).

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