vegicus. At time of death, the snake measured 645 mm SVL and 105 mm tail length. The size at time of collection, indicates that it likely hatched in 1978 or earlier, making this snake at least 29 years old when it died. Previous records for this species (Slavens 1981, Inventory of Live Reptiles and Amphibians in North American Collections, Current January 1, 1981, Woodland Park Zoological Gardens, Seattle, Washington; Snider and Bowler 1992. Longevity of Reptiles and Amphibians in North American Collections, 2nd ed. Herpetol. Circ. 21) do not indicate a specimen older than 22 years. The specimen is deposited in the Texas Natural History Collections (TNHC 66571).

Submitted by STEPHEN J. MULLIN, Department of Biological Sciences, Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, Illinois 61920, USA; e-mail: sjmullin@eiu.eiu.


On 14 November 2002, while conducting transect-based surveys, I found a female *S. longifrenis* (288 mm SVL, 135 mm tail, 9.7 g) in the forests of Caño Palma Biological Station, Tortuguero, Limón Province. The snake was moving across a palm tree leaf (*Maniaria saccifera*) at a height of ca. 2 m in an area of wet primary swamp forest (25.4°C, 97%RH). I captured the snake and held it overnight in order to verify identification and measure it. During the night the snake laid two elongate, white eggs (10.0 x 26.1 mm, 1.24 g; 10.1 x 24.8 mm, 1.25 g) in a terrarium. After laying her eggs, the snake weighed 7.1 g. The eggs were placed inside a small terrarium in conditions intended to mimic natural circumstances. Unfortunately by 25 December 2002 both eggs had brown fungi on their surfaces and inspection revealed partially developed dead embryos inside.

Guyer and Donnelly (2005. Amphibians and Reptiles of La Selva, Costa Rica and the Caribbean Slope. University of California Press, Berkeley. 367 pp.) reported *S. longifrenis* as ‘presumably an egg-layer.’ To the best of my knowledge, this is the first report of clutch size in *S. longifrenis*. Egg-laying has been reported for only a handful of *Sibon* species, but all previously reported clutch sizes range from 2–9 eggs (Kofron 1987. J. Herpetol. 21:210–225; McCoy 1990. Carib. J. Sci. 26:162–166; Campbell 1998. Amphibians and Reptiles of Northern Guatemala, the Yucatan, and Belize. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, Oklahoma. 380 pp.). November and December are wetter periods for the Tortuguero region and Caño Palma Biological Station receives most of its rainfall around this time.

I thank the Canadian Organization for Tropical Education and Rainforest Conservation, Ministerio de Recursos Naturales Energía y Minas, and Farnborough College of Science and Technology for permissions and assistance.

Submitted by TODD R. LEWIS, 4 Worgret Road, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 4PJ, United Kingdom; e-mail: biotropical@gawab.com.


On 13 October 2006 at 1411 h, at Monte Bello Pond (MB05) in the Santa Cruz Mountains, Santa Clara County, California (37.32108°N, 122.18548°W; 576 m elev.), RRG observed an adult *Thamnophis atratus atratus* (~ 75 cm SVL) swim ashore with a subadult *T. granulosa* (~ 5 cm SVL) firmly held in its mouth (Fig. 1). The snake settled on the south edge of the pond, characterized by a gentle grade and only sparse vegetation, where it held the newt high off the substrate (~ 15 cm) but kept the majority of its own body anchored in the shallows. The snake gripped the newt through the midsection and proceeded to manipulate the prey deeper into its mouth. The newt struggled to free itself and appeared to exude TTX; Cardall et al. 2004. Toxicon 44:933–938), but by 1414 h (3 min) the snake had already succeeded in swallowing the newt tail-first. The snake briefly rested (1 min) before turning back into the pond and slowly swimming away, apparently unaffected by its prey.

However, basic aspects of its biology remain unknown, since it is rarely observed and specimens are rare in collections (Amaral 1930. Bol. Mus. Nac. 4; Hedges 2002. Bull. Nat. Hist. Mus. Lond. [Zool.] 68:83–90). Feeding and behavioral information are restricted to captive specimens or are speculative (Amaral 1978. Serpentos do Brasil: Iconografia Colorida. Brazilian Snakes: a Color Iconography. Melhoramentos/EDUSP, São Paulo, Brazil; Carvalho, op. cit.). Here, we present the first report of feeding and tail displays by two wild *T. paucisquamis* recorded on the same night and location.

On 17 December 2004 at 2030 h at Pilar do Sul Municipality, São Paulo State, Brazil (23.93°S, 47.67°W, 780 m elev.) we watched as an adult *T. paucisquamis* (315 mm SVL, 42 mm tail length) left the shelter of a leaf (*Bathyza* sp., ca. 1.5 m above ground) and defecated. The snake stayed perched and immobile we collected it at 0230 h on 18 December 2004. Upon collection, the snake regurgitated a *Hypsibous caipora* (33 mm SVL, 2.5 g) which it had swallowed headfirst. It was raining and the air temperature was 18–19°C. The following day the snake was found coiled in a ball. The snake was photographed and released and the treefrog (*CFBH* 9336) was deposited in Célio Fernando Baptista Haddad collection, Laboratório de Herpetologia, Instituto de Biociências, Universidade Estadual Paulista, Rio Claro, São Paulo State, Brazil.

A second snake was foraging a few m away and we observed it from 0000 h on 17 December 2004 until 0230 h on 18 December 2004. This snake stopped on two occasions and lured with its tail. On the first occasion, the snake was stretched out on a leaf of *Calathea communis* (Marantaceae), except for the tail, which was elevated and undulated in a sinusoidal manner for ca. one minute. On the second occasion, the body was again stretched out. However, in this case the sinusoidal undulations of the tail were made while the tail was in contact with the plant stem, and the tail was dragged along the stem for ca. 30 seconds. In both cases tail movements were made from a stationary position and in the presence of two male *Hypsibous caipora* (ca. 3 m from the snake). The contrasting color of the tail (with the body) and the observations of tail displays in the presence of prey by *T. paucisquamis* indicate that the species uses its tail as a lure, although additional observations are necessary to confirm this hypothesis.

Submitted by **ANDRÉ PINASSI ANTUNES** (e-mail: aapardalis@gmail.com) and **CELIO FERNANDO BAPTISTA HADDAD**, Laboratório de Herpetologia, Departamento de Zoologia, Instituto de Biociências, Universidade Estadual Paulista, 1515, Rio Claro, 13506-900, São Paulo, Brazil.


On 3 February 2007, I encountered a road-killed adult (sex not determined) Tropical Screech Owl (*Megascops choliba*) south of Rodovia do Sol at kilometer 32 on route ES 060. The area around

---

**Fig. 1.** An adult Santa Cruz Gartersnake (*Thamnophis atratus atratus*) consuming a subadult Rough-skinned Newt (*Taricha granulosa*) in Monte Bello Pond, Santa Clara County, California (MVZ 257750).