

graphic region as suggested by HERNÁNDEZ-CAMACHO et al. (1992). In the locality reported here, *L. southi* is syntopic with the congeneric species *L. rugiceps*.

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Presence of *Echinantera undulata* (WIED-NEUWIED, 1824) in Ecuador

Until recently, members of the genus *Echinantera* COPE, 1824, were assigned to the genera *Liophis*, *Taeniophallus*, and *Rhadinaea* (PETERS & OREJAS-MIRANDA 1986). Today, the genus *Echinantera* is considered a monophyletic and well defined group that includes six species: *Echinantera amoena* (JAN, 1863), *E. cephalomaculata* DI-BERNARDO, 1994, *E. cephalostriata* DI-BERNARDO, 1996, *E. cyanopleura* (COPE, 1885), *E. melanostigma* (WAGLER, 1824) and *E. undulata* (WIED-NEUWIED, 1824) (DI-BERNARDO 1992; SCHARGEL et al. 2005).

The presence of *Echinantera undulata* in Ecuador, as the only representative of this genus, was uncertain, even though PETERS & OREJAS-MIRANDA (1986) included Ecuador in the group of countries where this species should occur. *Echinantera undulata* was excluded from the lists of reptiles of Ecuador, later to the above publication, due to the lack of evidence from reference specimens in museums (ALMENDARIZ 1991; PEREZ-SANTOS & MORENO 1991; COLOMA et al. 2006). Nevertheless, monitoring in the central-east of this region, confirmed the presence of this species in the Amazon region of Ecuador (VALENCIA et al. 2005) (Fig. 1).

Echinantera undulata was found in the lowlands wet forest of the Pastaza province, Amazon region of Ecuador, in two localities: Moretecocha (FHGO 584) (01° 35' S, 77° 24' W, ca. 427 m a.s.l.) and Shell (FHGO 759) (01° 30' S, 78° 03' W, ca. 1042 m a.s.l.), in tropical rain forest, with the distance between the localities being about 75 km (Fig. 2). This nocturnal snake inhabits leaf litter in primary and secondary forest. Time when specimens were collected was between 19:00 to 21:00 hrs.

Body color pattern is similar in both individuals: Dorsum grayish, including lateral ends of ventrals; a conspicuous longitudinal black postocular stripe to the angle of the mouth, an inverted V constituting a black nuchal band, dark dorsal blotches, approximately 19 in number in both sides along the third and fourth longitudinal scale rows of the anterior midbody (not present in



Fig. 1: *Echinantera undulata* (WIED-NEUWIED, 1824) (FHGO 759) from Shell, Pastaza, Ecuador. Dorsal (above) and ventral (above) aspect.

the specimen from Shell); a black longitudinal stripe extending posteriorly along the third third of the body to the tail. Ventral, mental scales and throat spotless beige in color, small brown blotches in the mental region.

The morphology of the specimens will be described in the following order: FHGO 759 / FHGO 584.

Snout-vent length 24.4 cm / 27.8 cm; tail 5.4 cm / 6.6 cm; dorsal longitudinal scale rows 17-17-15 in both specimens, ventrals 134 / 150; subcaudals 39 / 48; temporals 1+2, supralabials 7, infralabials 8, preoculars 2 and postoculars 2 in both specimens each.

In the lowland tropical rain forests in the Pastaza province of Ecuador *E. undulata* is sympatric with *Liophis typhlus* (LINNAEUS, 1758) and *Liophis reginae* (LINNAEUS, 1758) and can be confounded easily with these species. *Liophis typhlus* differs from *E. undulata* in the number of 19-19-15



Fig. 2: The new record localities (▲) of *Echinantera undulata* (WIED-NEUWIED, 1824) in the Province of Pastaza, Amazonian Ecuador.

dorsal scales, variable dorsal color pattern between grayish and greenish, and lateral blotches in chevron shape; *Liophis reginae* presents black ventral blotches alternating with yellowish ventral blotches and the dorsum without any black longitudinal stripe.

The provinces of Pastaza and Morona Santiago as part of the Amazon region show the highest reptile diversity within Ecuador. Makuma a Shuar Center in Morona Santiago for example, houses more than 90% of the snake species on record for the checklist of the Ecuadorian Squamata (VALENCIA 2007 in press).

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First record of *Malpolon monspessulanus* (HERMANN, 1804) from the island of Corsica (France)

In southern Europe, *Malpolon monspessulanus* (HERMANN, 1804) exhibits a wide geographic distribution which is comprised of three main portions (HAAN 1999): (1) western portion (Iberian Peninsula through SE France to NW Italy); (2) middle portion (Balkan Peninsula from about Trieste/NE Italy to Burgas/Bulgaria and Istanbul/Turkey); and (3) eastern portion (eastern Caucasus and western part of Caspian lowlands). This snake has not been recorded from the French Island of Corsica yet (GASC et al. 1997; HAAN 1999).

In early August 2001, GH found a skin shedding of a large snake in a bush alongside a paved road in northern Corsica (Fig. 1), ca. 1.5 km E Cervione (GPS data for Cervione: 42°19'54"N, 9°29'28"E), France. The snake slough (SMF 86351) was deposited in the collection of the Forschungs-



Fig. 1: Habitat of *Malpolon monspessulanus* ca. 1.5 km E Cervione, Corsica, France. The arrow indicates the place where the skin shedding (SMF 86351) was found.

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