## Considerations on the reproduction of *Philodryas olfersii* (LICHTENSTEIN, 1823), in Roraima, Brazil

The genus *Philodryas* currently comprises 23 species widely distributed in South America's (UETZ 2017) arid and tropical regions (THOMAS 1976; MARQUES et al. 2001; GIRAUDO 2001; UETZ 2017). *Philodryas olfersii* (LICHTENSTEIN, 1823), Lichtenstein's Green Racer or boiubu in indigenous languages, has the widest distribution among the members of this genus. It occurs in various ecoregions throughout Brazil, Colombia. French Guiana, Guvana and Venezuela (UETZ 2017) and is characterized by mainly semi-arboreal habits (VANZOLINI et al. 1980; DE LEMA 1994; FRANÇA 2006; BERNARDE 2012, 2014). Nonetheless, the knowledge about its reproductive biology is insufficient. The reproductive cycle was reported to last around nine months, with oviposition in captivity, from September to December, and clutch size between two and 16 eggs (FOWLER et al. 1998). According to the available information, vitellogenic follicles were identified between September and January, and a female contained seven eggs in November (BARBO et al. 2011). DOURADO DE MESQUITA (2013) recorded females with vitellogenic follicles throughout the year, however, the presence of eggs and oviposition was restricted to the period from November to January. Likewise, mating behaviors were recorded in June in Northeast Brazil (Ceará), suggesting its reproduction occurring throughout the year in this area (DOURADO DE MESQUITA et al. 2012).

On June 6, 2017, the authors collected an adult female *P. olfersii* (snout-ventlength 724 mm, tail length 263 mm) in the Brazilian state of Roraima, municipality of Cantá, highway BR–401, km 16 (2.849217° N, 60.579700° W). On the following day at 15:25 h, the snake laid seven eggs in captivity. The eggs were kept in a plastic box filled with vermiculite at temperatures of 25 - 32 °C (average 27,5 °C) and humidified daily. After 64 days, the offspring began to hatch, which took up to two days per individual. The small litter size of seven (average snout-vent-length 250 mm) can be related to the small size of the female.

The present observations from Roraima regarding the dates of oviposition, in the beginning of June and eclosion in the beginning of August at the end of the rainy season, differ from those reported by FOWLER et al. (1998). According to BARBO-SA (1997) in the State of Roraima the seasonality is represented by a dry season and a rainy season occurring between May and the end of August. The new data could suggest that in Roraima the reproductive cycle of *P. olfersii* is not subjected to seasonality, since neonates and juveniles are found practically throughout the year (authors personal observations). This phenomenon is likely due to the largely constant tropical rain and temperature conditions prevailing, which favor a wide variety and availability of food (DIXON & SOINI 1976; DUELLMAN 1978).

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