

supporting the idea that *P. patagoniensis* is an opportunistic predator of both native and non-native birds.

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**PITUOPHIS MELANOLEUCUS (Pinesnake). DIET.** *Pituophis melanoleucus* is a large, primarily fossorial colubrid found in sandy soil regions of the southeastern USA and is traditionally associated with open canopy habitats (Ernst and Ernst 2003. Snakes of the United States and Canada. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C. 668 pp.). It is a powerful constrictor that feeds principally on small mammals, but has occasionally been recorded feeding on lizards, other snakes, and quail eggs (Ernst and Ernst 2003, *op. cit.*). Here, we report consumption of turtle eggs, most likely those of *Gopherus polyphemus* (Gopher Tortoise), by *P. melanoleucus* in Georgia, USA.

At 1300 h on 18 June 2018, AS spotted a *P. melanoleucus* in Longleaf Pine (*Pinus palustris*) sandhill habitat as part of a larger study of secretive upland snakes at Fort Stewart, Long County, Georgia, USA. The snake was near a *G. polyphemus* burrow, stretched out and crawling in exposed sand < 2 m from the edge of an unpaved road. It was an adult female and had ingested several food items (1156 mm SVL, 162 mm tail length, 583.3 g at capture, 533.8 g post-digestion on 27 June 2018 when food items were no longer palpable). The four discrete boluses were located ca. 450–590 mm anterior to the cloaca (Fig. 1A, B). An ultrasound performed on 19 June 2018 confirmed that the items were spherical (Fig. 1C), suggesting that the snake had consumed turtle or bird eggs. While bird eggs are generally ovoid, some owls, including resident *Strix varia* and *Bubo virginianus*, lay near-spherical eggs (Stoddard et al. 2017. Science 356:1249–1254), though mid-June is beyond the egg

stage for both species' nesting phenology (<http://www.ebird.org>; 1 Oct 2019). Given the time of year, and egg size and shape, the most plausible food items were turtle eggs from *Chelydra serpentina*, *Apalone ferox*, *Apalone spinifera*, or *G. polyphemus*. Of these, *G. polyphemus* is most likely, given the prevalence of this species at the capture location and the absence of nearby aquatic habitats likely to harbor populations of *C. serpentina*, *A. ferox*, or *A. spinifera*.

Despite the scarcity of records of egg predation by *P. melanoleucus*, the inclusion of eggs in their diet is unsurprising. In a comprehensive study of the diet of *P. catenifer* (the western sister taxon to *P. melanoleucus*), 11.9% of 1,066 prey items were bird eggs (Rodríguez-Robles 2002. Biol. J. Linn. Soc. 77:165–183). However, turtle eggs have seldom been recorded in the diet of *P. catenifer* and have not been reported in the diet of *P. melanoleucus*. Given that *G. polyphemus* can be common in sandy uplands preferred by *P. melanoleucus*, their eggs may be an underappreciated food resource for this species.

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**SENTICOLIS TRIASPIS (Green Ratsnake). ARBOREAL HABITAT USE.** *Senticolis triaspis* is a large snake (total length to 1830 mm; García-Vázquez et al. 2008. Herpetol. Rev. 39:358) that inhabits in a variety of habitats, including grassland, tropical deciduous forest, semi-evergreen seasonal forest, premontane rain forest, and pine-oak forest, in low and moderate elevations from southeastern Arizona, USA and central Nuevo León, Mexico, southward through much of Mexico and Central America to Costa Rica (Heimes 2016. Herpetofauna Mexicana Vol. I. Snakes of Mexico. Edition Chimaira. Frankfurt am Main. 572 pp.). *Senticolis triaspis* is primarily terrestrial (Lee 2000. A Field Guide to the Amphibians and Reptiles of the Mayan World. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, New York. 402 pp.), and although it is not considered an arboreal species (Radke and Malcom 2005. USDA

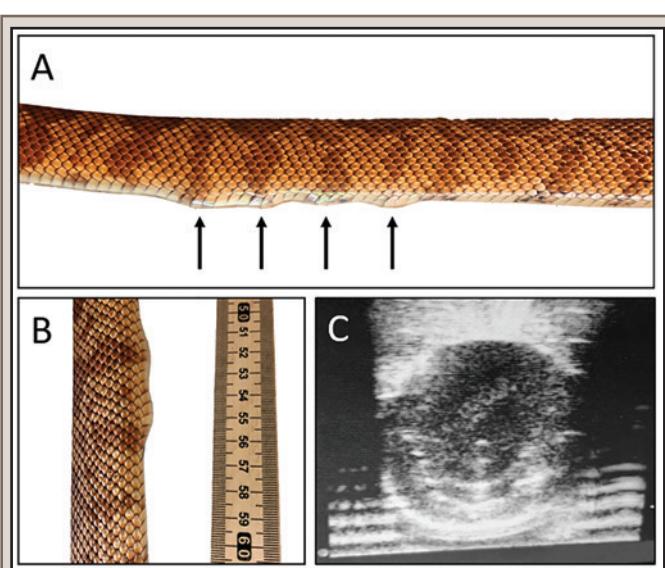


FIG. 1. *Pituophis melanoleucus* at (A) capture and (B) two days later, showing multiple obvious food boluses, and (C) ultrasound showing round eggs in the digestive tract.

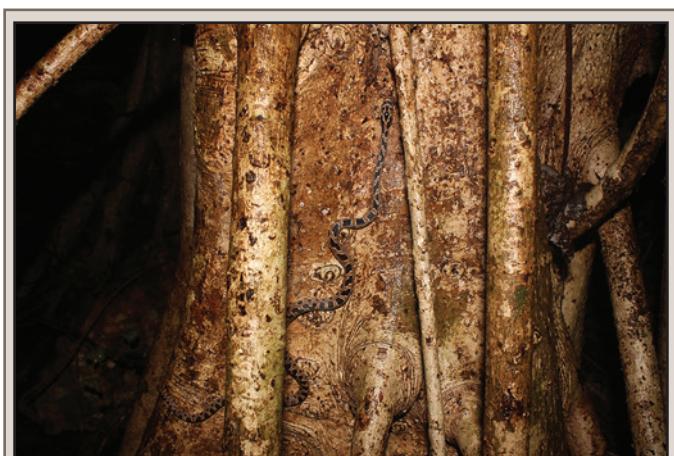


FIG. 1. A juvenile *Senticolis triaspis* at the base of a tree *Cecropia* sp. tree, in the entrance of "Calcehtok" cave, Opichén, Yucatán, Mexico.