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LOXOCEMUS BICOLOR (Burrowing Python). **FEEDING BEHAVIOR.** This neotropical snake is primarily fossorial and presumably nocturnal (Mora 1987. J. Herpetol. 21:334-335). Little information is available about its diet. Greene (1983. Amer. Zool. 23:431-441) found two teiid lizards and two rodents in the stomach of museum specimens and Mora (op. cit.) and Mora and Robinson (1984. Rev. Biol. Trop. 32:161-162) reported that *L. bicolor* feeds on reptile eggs and described egg-eating behavior. Additional information on its constricting behavior in the laboratory was reported by Willard (1977. Copeia 1977:379-382) though the prey item was not specified. Here I report that this species also depredates hatchling iguanids. The observations were conducted at the Dr. Rafael Lucas Rodriguez National Wildlife Refuge (Palo Verde), Costa Rica (10°21' N— 85°21' W).

Ctenosaur (*Ctenosaura similis*) and iguana (*Iguana iguana*) hatchlings excavate a narrow tunnel to facilitate their exit from the nest at the beginning of the rainy season (Mora 1989. Herpetologica 45:293-298). Three *L. bicolor* were observed at night in exit tunnels. On 6 May 1986, one *L. bicolor* (ca. 1 m TL), was observed half way in the exit tunnel of a ctenosaur nest. When removed, the snake held a hatchling ctenosaur in its mouth and when palpated, at least two more hatchlings were in its stomach. The other two snakes were observed on 8 May and 9 May, in nests of ctenosaurs and iguanas, respectively; neither snake could be captured.

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STORERIA OCCIPITOMACULATA OCCIPITOMACULATA (Northern Red-belly Snake). **BEHAVIOR.** Jordan (1970. Herpetologica 26:466-468) found captive *Storeria o. occipitamaculata* stiffening and feigning death when attacked. Vogt (1981. Natural History of Amphibians and Reptiles of Wisconsin. Milwaukee Publ. Mus., Milwaukee. 205pp.) reported that although

he had handled hundreds of *S. occipitamaculata*, only once did he encounter an individual which seemed to feign death. That individual, found on a cold day in May, became stiff and was able to be held erect like a match stick. In this note I report a dissimilar death feigning behavior of wild *S. o. occipitamaculata*.

On a warm day in May 1988, when I captured an individual (ca. 8 cm SVL) on a gravel road near Sturgeon Bay, Door Co., Wisconsin (T.28N., R.26E., Sec. 29), it ceased moving and its body became flaccid. As I held the limp snake in my open palm, it rolled its head to one side and exhibited the lip flaring display described by Gosner (1942. Copeia 1942:181-183). After several minutes of inactivity, the snake started to crawl out of my hand. When I caught it with my other hand, its body again went limp. The snake was placed on the road and after a short period of immobility, it crawled away.

Later that evening, when a second *S. o. occipitamaculata* was picked up, it also ceased moving and did not try to escape. When placed on the ground it crawled away. The air temperature was considerably cooler than in the previous encounter. Neither of the snakes I observed stiffened their bodies while feigning death.

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THAMNOPHIS SIRTALIS PARIETALIS (Red-sided Garter Snake). **POPULATION MORPH VARIATION.** Over the past five years, we have captured unusual color morphs of the red-sided garter snake, *Thamnophis sirtalis parietalis*. These morphs include melanistic individuals as well as individuals lacking the dorsal and lateral stripes; having no red or yellow coloration; or lacking either the dorsal or lateral stripes (Fig. 1). All individuals were collected at overwintering hibernacula located on small islands in Lake Winnipegosis, Manitoba, Canada. As these populations are comprised of only an estimated few hundred individuals, the relative proportion of these unusual morphs is estimated to be significant.

The reproductive isolation of these populations appears to be substantial. Interestingly, individuals on these islands migrate by swimming to the mainland after spring emergence and return to the islands in the fall to hibernate. It is not known if all the snakes leave the islands.

In one case, the snakes must swim up two miles across open water to reach the nearest shoreline. How members of the island populations can locate and return to these islands in the fall is unknown.

Members of these populations are interesting natural experiment. No melanistic morphs have ever been reported from mainland populations in Manitoba. This suggests an interesting population genetics phenomenon, perhaps a founder effect. Because the islands are relatively small they present an ideal model system for field studies on the genetics of populations and island biogeography.

Finally, as pointed out by King (198. Herpetologica 44:451-458), melanistic morphs may be especially susceptible to collection because of their unusual appearance and greater commercial value. At present, the ecological impact of continued collecting on these islands is unknown. However, collecting there during spring or fall aggregations would be expected to dramatically affect morph frequencies owing to the relatively small population sizes.

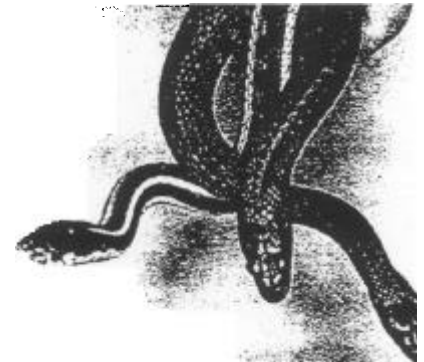


Figure 1. Color variation in individual *T. parietalis* collected on islands in Lake Winnipegosis, Manitoba, Canada. A typical member of this species (left), an individual lacking yellow lateral stripes and red dorsal blotches (center), and a melanistic morph (right).

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