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FIRST RECORD OF A VERTEBRATE IN THE DIET OF THE GENUS *GEOPHIS*

PRIMER REGISTRO DE UN VERTEBRADO EN LA DIETA DEL GÉNERO *GEOPHIS*

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Resumen.— La serpiente falso coral (*Geophis semidoliatus*) se alimenta principalmente de invertebrados. En esta nota presentamos el primer registro de un vertebrado (*Scincella cherriei*) en la dieta de la serpiente *Geophis semidoliatus*.

Palabras clave.— Dieta, *Geophis, Scincella*, vertebrado, primer registro.

Abstract.— The Coral Earth Snake (*Geophis semidoliatus*) feeds mainly on invertebrates. In this note we present the first record of a vertebrate (*Scincella cherriei*) in the diet of the snake *Geophis semidoliatus.*

Key words.— Diet, *Geophis, Scincella*, vertebrate, first record.

The Coral Earth Snake (*Geophis semidoliatus*) is a small-sized terrestrial snake, with a fossorial habits, which lives in primary and secondary pine-oak and cloud forest, shrubland and disturbed habitats including agricultural land and urban areas of the states of Veracruz, Puebla, and Oaxaca, in Mexico (Canseco-Marquez et al., 2000; Lopez-Luna et al., 2007). Like other species of the genus, its diet is based mainly on small invertebrates, including two predation events on earthworms recorded (Steib, 1985; Avedaño-Diaz et al., 2021). On June 28th, 2007, we collected an adult specimen of *Geophis semidoliatus* (MZFC-22177) at Ejido Tepequezquiapan, Eloxochitlán-Tlacotepec de Díaz road, municipality of Eloxochitlan, Puebla, Mexico (18.48619° N,

Figura 1. *Scincella cherriei stuarti* (MZFC-22178) encontrada en el estómago de *Geophis semidoliatus.*

Figure 1. *Scincella cherriei stuarti* (MZFC-22178) founded in the stomach of *Geophis semidoliatus.*

96.86636° W; WGS84; 1041 m elev.). During a routine dissection, a specimen of the skink *Scincella cherriei stuarti* (Fig. 1) (MZFC-22178) was found in the snake's stomach. The lizard was identified based on scalation and geographic provenance. This is the first record of vertebrate prey in the diet of *Geophis*. The specimens were deposited in the herpetological collection of the Museo de Zoología "Alfonso L. Herrera," Facultad de Ciencias, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (MZFC).

Although it has been documented that various groups of neotropical snakes feed from earthworms, due to their abundance and the high content of proteins they possess (Strüssman et al., 2013), it has also been suggested that they have the capacity to prey on other invertebrates, said capacity seems to consistently represent a primitive feature among the snakes of the Colubridae family (Greene, 1983; Strüssman et al., 2013), nonetheless, these kinds of predator-prey interactions are rarely recorded, so that the documentation of this scenario contributes to know the life story of this species in a more accurate manner.

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