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GEOPHIS BLANCHARDI (COLUBRIDAE)

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México: Veracruz: Municipality of La Perla: Metlac Hernández (18.981664 °N, 97.144715 °W; WGS 84, 1929 m elev.), 31 May 2022. A single individual (Fig. 1) was found on a cloudy day at 13:30 h under a pile of freshly cut grass next to an agricultural field surrounded by disturbed oak forest. First municipality record located ca. 34 km northeast (airline) of the closest previously known records from the vicinities of Acultzingo, Municipality of Acultzingo, Veracruz, which include the type locality of the species (Taylor & Smith, 1939). This record corresponds to the fourth known locality for the species, in addition to being the northern-most record and the second locality in the state of Veracruz (Downs, 1967; Canseco-Márquez et al., 2004; Canseco-Márquez & Austin, 2005).

Identification was based on the presence of smooth dorsal scales arranged in 17 rows, a single postocular, a single posterior temporal, seven infralabials, a bluish-gray dorsum, and a venter checkered with yellowish-orange and black. The specimen reported here is a female with a snout-vent length (SVL) of 435 mm and a tail length of 42 mm, presents an anterior temporal scale, seven supralabials on one side, 152 ventral scales (the last of which is divided), and 24 subcaudals. In contrast, the specimens examined by Downs (1967) did not present an anterior temporal scale, the maximum number of supralabials was six, and the minimum number of ventrals (none divided) and subcaudals in females were 159 and 28, respectively. An anterior temporal was also present in an individual from Eloxochitlán, Puebla, reported in iNaturalist (https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/15375185). Additional sampling and molecular analyses are needed to establish whether this variation merits taxonomic consideration.

The snake was found by the first author and a photo (LACM PC 2946) was deposited in the digital collection of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. The identity of the specimen was corroborated by the curator of the collection, Neftali Camacho.

Figura 1. Hembra de *Geophis blanchardi* (LACM PC 2946).
Figure 1. Female of *Geophis blanchardi* (LACM PC 2946)

Acknowledgments.- We thank Neftali Camacho for cataloging the photograph (Figure 1) in the digital collection of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County.

CITED LITERATURE

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