

ELAPOMORPHUS QUINQUELINEATUS (Raddi's Lizard-eating Snake). **REPRODUCTION.** *Elapomorphus quinque-lineatus* is a small, nocturnal, fossorial snake, that is occasionally found in leaf litter. It is distributed in forested areas of southeastern Brazil, from eastern Minas Gerais and Espírito Santo south to Rio Grande do Sul (Peters and Orejas-Miranda 1970. Catalogue of the Neotropical Squamata: Part I. Snakes. Bull. U.S. Natl. Mus. 297:1–347; Ferrarezzi 1993. Sistemática Filogenética de *Elapomorphus*, *Phalotris* e *Apostolepis* (Serpentes: Colubridae: Xenodontinae). Dissertação de Mestrado, Depto. De Zoologia da Universidade de São Paulo. 199 pp.). It feeds on snakes, lizards, amphisbaenians, frogs, earthworms and insects.

On 9 November 1999, five specimens were collected in a pasture on the left bank of the Rio Itabapoana at the site of the new hydroelectric dam at Rosal, near Guaçuí, Espírito Santo, Brazil (20°55'S, 41°42'W). On 27 December 1999, a female (790 mm SVL, 880 mm total length) laid one egg and on 7 January 2000, she laid a second egg.

The eggs were whitish and elongate. They were incubated in a covered plastic box (15 x 11 x 6 cm), at ca. 24 ± 2°C, on moist soil. The first egg was lost to fungal infestation. The second egg

hatched after 74 days. The hatchling was a female (195 mm SVL, 220 mm total length, 4.30 g). It was kept in a glass box (30 x 20 x 14 cm) with soil, and a bowl of water. It remained buried most of the time; when on the surface it actively explored the environment. Earthworms and mealworms were offered but not accepted. It was force-fed weekly with snake tails but steadily lost weight and died at 43 days of age (215 mm SVL, 240 mm total length) having lost about 40% (1.8 g) of its birth weight. It went through two ecdyses. The specimen is now number 62471 in the Instituto Butantan collection.

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