

NATURAL HISTORY NOTES

SORDELLINA PUNCTATA (NCN). **DIET.** The single species of the genus *Sordellina* is reported mainly from the Atlantic Forest in southern Brazil (Hoge and Romano 1976/77. Mem. Inst. Butantan 40/41:63–70). *Sordellina punctata* averages 400–600 mm in total length and seems to be aquatic and diurnal (pers. obs.). This snake displays morphological features related to aquatic habits, including dorsal placement of eyes and nostrils. Although published information states that “this snake lives in fields not far from water and woods, hunting for frogs on which to feed” (Amaral 1978. Serpentes do Brasil, Melhoramentos/Univ. São Paulo, 246 pp.), no substantiated data on food of *S. punctata* are available. Here I report on gut contents of one snake found in the wild and four specimens housed in the collection of the Instituto Butantan (IB) in São Paulo.

One adult female *S. punctata* (SVL = 500 mm, tail = 130 mm) was found in the morning of 4 October 1995, resting on the ground within restinga scrub at the Estação Ecológica Juréia-Itatins, São Paulo (24°25'S, 47°14'W). Upon capture it disgorged remains of a giant earthworm (Glossoscolecidae). An adult male (IB 40285, SVL = 430 mm, tail = 105 mm), contained one semi-digested earthworm. Estimated prey/predator mass ratio for the two above snakes was 0.3 and 0.05 respectively. Feeding both on small and large prey is common for most snakes (Arnold 1993. In Seigel and Collins (eds.), *Snakes: Ecology and Behavior*, pp. 87–115. McGraw Hill, New York). Additionally, two snakes (IB 22936 and IB 41071) had earthworm setae (probable from Glossoscolecidae) in their hindgut. Glossoscolecid earthworms are surface active during and after rainfall (pers. obs.), some species being partly aquatic (G. Righi, pers. comm.). Two captive *S. punctata* ate small fish and tadpoles (I. Sazima, pers. comm.; pers. obs.).

I thank I. Sazima for reading the manuscript and G. Righi for information, and identification of the earthworm prey.

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