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## NATURAL HISTORY NOTES

**SORDELLINA PUNCTATA (NCN). REPRODUCTION.** The xenodontine colubrid *Sordellina punctata* occurs mainly in the Atlantic Forest domain in southeastern Brazil (Hoge and Romano 1976/77. Mem. Inst. Butantan 40/41:63–70) and is rare in herpetological collections. This is an elusive aquatic snake whose reproductive characteristics have not been reported. Here I present data on the reproductive cycle, fecundity, and mode of reproduction, based upon dissection of 12 specimens housed in the collection of the Instituto Butantan in São Paulo (IB).

An adult female (IB 25130, 360 mm SVL, 65 mm tail length) collected in September contained four vitellogenic follicles. Two females (IB 22313, 530 mm SVL, 75 mm tail length; and IB 46054, 495 mm SVL, 80 mm tail length) collected in October contained seven vitellogenic follicles each. A fourth snake (IB 10464, 385 mm SVL, 70 mm tail length) collected in February contained three eggs in the oviducts. The size of females and number of follicles or eggs indicate that clutch size appears to be related to maternal body size, as occurs in most snakes (Shine 1994. Copeia 1994:851–867). An additional eight females collected throughout the year contained no vitellogenic follicles or eggs. One presumed hatchling (IB 57875, 180 mm SVL, 30 mm tail length) was collected in June. Thus, the reproductive cycle of *S. punctata* seems to be seasonal: vitellogenesis and oviposition occurs in the rainy season (October–March), and hatching occurs at the onset of the dry season (May–June). The data presented here indicate that *S. punctata* is an oviparous species, an unusual reproductive mode for an aquatic snake as most aquatic snakes are viviparous (Shine 1983. *In* Biology of the Reptilia. Vol 15. Development B. C. Gans and F. Billet [[eds.], pp. 605–694. John Wiley and Sons, New York.). However, some aquatic xenodontines such as *Helicops angulatus*, *H. hagmanni*, and *Pseudoeryx plicatilis* present both viviparous and oviparous reproductive modes (Cunha and Nascimento 1981. Bol. Mus. Par. Emilio Goeldi 109:1–20). Therefore, additional data are needed to assess whether *S. punctata* follows this dual pattern. I thank I. Sazima for reviewing this manuscript.

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