

A local group, "CIELO," in Duvergé has been actively supporting our efforts. With their help, we mounted a teachers' workshop in August. This program was developed in cooperation with the Indianapolis Zoo and ZooDom (the national zoo in Santo Domingo). Teachers have expressed considerable interest in units addressing the nation's natural heritage, of which Ricord's Iguana comprises an important element. Establishing a local support group in Jimaní and implementing additional workshops for teachers are critical if the local authorities are to become interested in conservation.

#### Acknowledgements

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#### References

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## SPECIES PROFILE

### Hispaniolan Lesser Racer (*Antillophis parvifrons*)

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Certainly the most ubiquitous snake species on the Greater Antillean island of Hispaniola (including many of its satellite islands) is the colubrid *Antillophis parvifrons*. It is a slender snake with a maximum snout-vent length (SVL) of 530 mm. Dorsal ground color is variable (brown, black, gray, or bluish), and the dorsum may be patternless or with middorsal and dorsolateral stripes. The species occurs in habitats ranging from xeric scrub to rainforest. These snakes appear to be highly seasonal breeders in dry habitats, but may exhibit prolonged or even continuous breeding activity in moister situations at higher elevations.

A fast-moving, ground-dwelling, diurnally active snake, it can be found in orchard and plantation situations (e.g., banana, breadfruit, cacao, coconut, coffee), where it may be observed cruising through leaf litter or concealed in coconut or banana trash. It appears to do well in greatly altered habitats and is often encountered near human habitations.

*Antillophis parvifrons* is an active forager that feeds on a wide array of frogs (*Osteopilus*, *Eleutherodactylus*) and lizards (*Sphaerodactylus*, *Anolis*, *Leiocephalus*, *Celestus*, *Ameiva*), but *Anolis* accounted for nearly 71% of all prey items in a sample of almost 200 snakes. In contrast, frogs of the genus *Eleutherodactylus* accounted for only 12% of prey items. Although small mammals (*Mus musculus*) are occasionally taken, they are not typical fare (2.2% of the sample).

Groups of three to five individuals have been found together on Île-de-la-Gonâve (Haiti), perhaps in a breeding situation. Clutches of 2–15 eggs have been reported, and clutch size is positively correlated with female SVL. When threatened, some individuals will raise the forepart of the body and the neck will become flattened dorsoventrally, reminiscent of some species of West Indian racers (*Alsophis*).

#### References

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The Hispaniolan Lesser Racer (*Antillophis parvifrons*) occurs in habitats ranging from rainforest to xeric scrub, such as that found in the area around Lago Enriquillo.