

## INTRODUCED SPECIES

# First Record of an Eastern Ribbonsnake (*Thamnophis sauritus*) from Paradise Island, The Bahamas

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At 1000 h on 25 September 2018, the first author received a photograph from the second author of a strange snake (Fig. 1) at the Atlantis Resort on Paradise Island (25.082691°N, -77.318051°W). Eugenia Strachan, an employee of the Atlantis Resort, took the photograph on 24 September 2018 near the Atlantis loading dock, noting that another similar snake was seen two weeks prior in the same area. Drs. Kenneth L. Krysko, Michael E. Dorcas, and J. Whitfield Gibbons identified the snake from the photograph as an Eastern Ribbonsnake (*Thamnophis sauritus*). A photographic voucher was deposited in the Milwaukee Public Museum (MPM VZP 908).

Snakes of the genus *Thamnophis* are native to North and Central America (e.g., Rossman et al. 1996) and have been widely and mostly unsuccessfully introduced (extralimital US states including Hawaii, The Bahamas, Curaçao, Brazil, Europe, and even Guam and New Zealand), with the pet

trade the most frequently cited pathway (Kraus 2009 and references therein).

The first record in The Bahamas was on 4 July 1997, when Pericles Maillis and Gregory Mahomed found a Pennsylvania Ribbon Snake (*Thamnophis sauritus sakenii*) on New Providence (Buckner and Franz 1998a; Lee 2004, 2005). Dead Eastern Garter Snakes (*T. sirtalis sirtalis*) have been found on New Providence (exact date unknown) and Abaco on 27 August 1997 (Buckner and Franz 1998b; Lee 2004, 2005). Individuals of both species are regarded as waifs and are believed to have been introduced with imported plants and building materials (lumber). This report documents the first sighting of a species of *Thamnophis* on Paradise Island.

### Acknowledgements

We thank Sandy Bucker for historical information and Eugenia Strachan for information regarding the snake found on Paradise Island.

### Literature Cited

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**Fig. 1.** An Eastern Ribbonsnake (*Thamnophis sauritus*) on Paradise Island, Bahamas. Photograph by Eugenia Strachan.