



INTRODUCED SPECIES

North American Racer (*Coluber constrictor*) on Grand Bahama, The Bahamas

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On 22 October 2018, SJ noticed a post on Facebook about a strange snake found by TK in a residential yard near the Lucaya Golf Course (26.528966 N, 78.643953 W) on Grand Bahama. The snake (Fig. 1), discovered at ~1440 h, was rescued from her dog. After photographing it, she released it back into the wild. Drs. Kenneth L. Krysko and Robert Powell identified the snake from photographs and determined it to be a juvenile North American Racer (*Coluber constrictor*). A photographic voucher has been deposited in the Milwaukee Public Museum (MPM VZP 915).

North American Racers are native to North America (e.g., Plummer and Congden 1994) and are among the few North American snakes with a transcontinental distribution (Burbrink et al. 2008). Although non-venomous, they can become defensive when cornered and will bite when threatened. These snakes feed on a variety of animals, including other reptiles, birds, and rodents (Plummer and Congden 1994).

Other non-native snakes recorded in The Bahamas by Buckner and Franz (1998a, 1998b), Buckner et al. (2012), and Johnson and Francios (2018) include the Corn Snake (*Pantherophis guttatus*), Eastern Ribbonsnake (*Thamnophis sauritus*), and Common Gartersnake (*Thamnophis sirtalis*). These snakes as well as the North American Racer recorded herein are thought to have been introduced by plants or other products shipped in from the United States. This record represents the first account of a North American Racer in The Bahamas.

Literature Cited

- Buckner, S.D., R. Franz, and R.G. Reynolds. 2012. Bahama Islands and Turks & Caicos Islands, pp. 93–110. In: R. Powell and R.W. Henderson (eds.), Island lists of West Indian amphibians and reptiles. *Bulletin of the Florida Museum of Natural History* 51: 85–166
- Buckner, S.D. and R. Franz. 1998a. Geographic distribution: *Thamnophis sauritus sakenii*. *Herpetological Review* 29: 55.



Fig. 1. A juvenile North American Racer (*Coluber constrictor*) found in a residential yard near the Lucaya Golf Course on Grand Bahama, The Bahamas. Photograph by Trina Knowles.

- Buckner, S.D. and R. Franz. 1998b. Geographic distribution: *Thamnophis sirtalis sirtalis*. *Herpetological Review* 29: 55.
- Burbrink, F.T., F.M. Fontanella, R.A. Pyron, T.J. Guiher, and C. Jimenez. 2008. Phylogeography across a continent: The evolutionary and demographic history of the North American Racer (Serpentes: Colubridae: *Coluber constrictor*). *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* 47: 274–288.
- Johnson, S. and K. Francios. 2018. First record of an Eastern Ribbonsnake (*Thamnophis sauritus*) from Paradise Island, The Bahamas. *Reptiles & Amphibians* 25: 214
- Plummer, M.V. and J. D. Congdon. 1994. Radiotelemetric study of activity and movements of racers (*Coluber constrictor*) associated with a Carolina bay in South Carolina. *Copeia* 1994: 20–26.