



# Maximum Size Record for the Broad-banded Trope, *Tropidophis feicki* (Squamata: Tropidophiidae)

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The Broad-banded Trope, *Tropidophis feicki* (Tropidophiidae), is endemic to Cuba, where it is distributed in forested karstic areas in the western and central regions of the main island (Schwartz and Henderson 1991; Rodríguez-Cabrera et al. 2020). It is a slender snake that reaches <450 mm snout-vent length (Hedges 2002). Herein I report a size record for this species.

On 8 December 2019, Tomas M. Rodríguez-Cabrera encountered an adult male *T. feicki* (Fig. 1) that was foraging at night on limestone in a semi-deciduous forest near the Santa Cruz River, San Cristóbal Municipality, Artemisa Province, Cuba (22°44'58"N, 83°08'59"W; 160 m asl). I kept the snake in captivity, providing water *ad libitum* in a container sufficiently large to accommodate the whole animal

(Torres López et al. 2016). I offered anoles (*Anolis* spp.) and frogs (*Eleutherodactylus* spp.) on a weekly basis but the snake did not accept food until 107 days (3.5 months) after its capture, when it began to regularly eat anoles and frogs. Eleven months after capture, the snake measured 463 mm snout-vent length (SVL), 50 mm tail length, 13 mm head length, and weighed 34 g. This constitutes a size record for the species, exceeding by 15 mm the maximum SVL reported for females (448 mm) and by 52 mm the maximum SVL reported for males (411 mm; Hedges 2002).

Although I took the measurements eleven months after the snake was collected, the fact that it did not eat during 3.5 months of that period suggests that its increase in size must have been minimal. Therefore, I assume that it already represented a size record when collected.

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**Fig. 1.** An adult male Broad-banded Trope (*Tropidophis feicki*) from the Santa Cruz River, Sierra del Rosario Range, Artemisa Province, Cuba, representing the maximum size recorded for the species. Photograph by the author.