



# Notes on the Natural History and Distribution of Uribe’s Cat-eyed Snake, *Leptodeira uribei* (Dipsadidae)

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Uribe’s Cat-eyed Snake (*Leptodeira uribei*) is a Mexican endemic that ranges throughout the Pacific Coastal Plain from Jalisco to Oaxaca (Mata-Silva et al. 2017). These snakes are nocturnally active inhabitants of lowland tropical deciduous forest and are most active during the rainy season (Reyes-Velasco and Mulcahy 2010). Little is known about this species in nature. Streicher et al. (2011) found a female with six eggs in July, and Torres-Pérez-Coeto et al. (2018) recorded a Mexican Shovel-headed Treefrog (*Triprion spatulatus*) in its diet. Herein we provide a new distribution record, new dietary items, and reproductive data for the species.

We encountered two *L. uribei* at Rancho “El Santo,” Santiago Pinotepa Nacional, Oaxaca, Mexico. At 1400 h on 3 June 2019, we found the corpse of an adult female (total length 610 mm; tail length 122 mm; Fig. 1) on a trail in tropical deciduous forest (16.3680°N, 98.1861°W; WSG 84; 198 m asl). Local people had killed the snake when they found it inside a hollow trunk. We also found a subadult (total length 395 mm; tail length 95 mm; Fig. 2A) on leaf litter in tropical



**Fig. 2.** A subadult Uribe’s Cat-eyed Snake (*Leptodeira uribei*) encountered in lowland tropical deciduous forest at Rancho “El Santo,” Santiago Pinotepa Nacional, Oaxaca, Mexico, and a Yellow-bellied Gecko (*Phyllodactylus tuberculatus*) it regurgitated. Photographs by Luis Francisco Nieto-Toscano.



**Fig. 1.** A gravid female Uribe’s Cat-eyed Snake (*Leptodeira uribei*) from Rancho “El Santo,” Santiago Pinotepa Nacional, Oaxaca, Mexico, with five well-developed oviductal eggs and a prey item identified as a Marbled Toad (*Incilius marmoratus*). Photograph by Luis Francisco Nieto-Toscano.

deciduous forest (16.3605°N, 98.1755°W; WSG 84; 185 m asl) at 1000 h on 20 December 2020. After measuring the snake, we released it at the same location. These two individuals represent a new municipal distribution record, fill a gap between the closest localities, Rio Grande, Municipality of Villa de Tututepec de Melchor Ocampo, Oaxaca (Mata-Silva et al. 2017), and San Andrés de la Cruz, Municipality of Atoyac de Álvarez, Guerrero (Vázquez-Arroyo et al. 2019), and reinforce the contention of a continuous distribution from Jalisco to southern Oaxaca.

The adult female contained five well-developed oviducal eggs that measured 16 x 6 mm, 16 x 5 mm, and 15 x 4 mm and its stomach contained a Marbled Toad (*Incilius marmoratus*; total length 67 mm; Fig. 1). When handled, the sub-adult regurgitated a partially digested Yellow-bellied Gecko (*Phyllodactylus tuberculatus*; Fig. 2). This is the first time that *I. marmoratus* and *P. tuberculatus* have been recorded in the diet of *L. uribei*. Both prey species are nocturnally active and presumably were captured at night when the snake was foraging.

The specimens described herein have been deposited in the Collection of Amphibians and Reptiles of the Metropolitan Autonomous University-Iztapalapa: *I. marmoratus* (CAR-I 1505), *P. tuberculatus* (CAR-I 1506), and adult *L. uribei* (CAR-I 1507). The identity of the snakes was confirmed by Aurelio Ramírez-Bautista.

### Acknowledgements

We thank Angel Toscano and Aurelio López for support with the fieldwork.

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