



Notes on Clutch Size, Incubation Period, and Hatchling Size of the Elegant-eyed Lizard, *Cercosaura argulus* Peters 1862

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Cercosaura argulus is a widely distributed gymnophthalmid found in Amazonian Brazil, French Guiana, Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia, and Colombia (Ribeiro-Júnior and Amaral 2017). Within Colombia, the species has been recorded in various regions, including the trans-Andean area spanning the Cordillera Central and Oriental, Magdalena River Valley, Amazonian region, and southern Orinoquia (Diago-Toro et al. 2021). However, little is known about the natural history of this species (Ramos-Pallares et al. 2013; Vitt et al. 2003). Herein I report an instance of egg-laying by *C. argulus* under a rotten trunk in a tropical rainforest at Vereda San Pedro of the municipality of San Pablo de Borbur, Department of Boyacá, Colombia (5.666640, -74.086750; elev. 1,463 m asl), an area studied from 16 to 18 June 2023. I also report the subsequent hatching of eggs and measurements of hatchlings.

At the study site, I found a nest with three eggs that were collected in a jar with the same substrate in which they were found (Fig. 1). All eggs seemed to be at the same stage of development. Two hatched within 35 to 37 days of collection, and the last egg never hatched. At the time I found them, the three eggs weighed an average of 0.41 g (0.35–0.50 g) and had a mean width of 7.9 mm (7.72–8.11 mm) and a mean length of 11.26 mm (11.12–11.39 mm). The two hatchlings had a mean snout-vent length of 21.43 mm (20.93 and 21.94 mm), mean tail length of 42.51 mm (41.68 and 43.35 mm), and mean weight of 0.35 g (range = 0.30–0.40 g).

Information on nesting, oviposition, incubation, and hatchlings is scarce for gymnophthalmids in Colombia. Communal egg laying has been reported in other gymnophthalmids (Medina-Rangel 2013; Ramos-Pallares et al. 2013) and in closely related alopoglossids (Medina-Rangel and López-Perilla, 2014). However, the data provided herein are the first records of incubation period and sizes and weights of eggs and hatchlings of *C. argulus*.



Figure 1. Hatchling Elegant-eyed Lizards (*Cercosaura argulus*). Photograph by Angela Mendoza.

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