

## SERPENTES

**THAMNOPHIS ORDINOIDES** (Northwestern Garter Snake). Reproduction. Previous accounts of this species from the mid- and northern portions of its range indicate that clutch size ranges from 3 to 20 young with 8 to 12 being most common. The few records of clutch sizes above 15 have included both unfertilized ova and births of dead snakes in the counts. Mature females range in size from ca. 300 to 695 mm SVL though rarely exceed 600 mm SVL (Nussbaum, Brodie, and Storm 1983. *Amphibians and Reptiles of the Pacific Northwest*. Univ. Press of Idaho. Moscow. 322 pp.; Stewart 1968. *J. Herpetol.* 2(3-4):71-86). We know of only one study that provides information on clutch size for *T. ordinoides* from the southern portion of its range. The average clutch size for 11 medium-sized females from southwestern Oregon was 5.2 (SE = 0.9) (Brodie 1989. *Amer. Natur.* 134(2):225-238).

On 23 August 1988 a gravid female *T. ordinoides* was captured at the edge of Hurdygurdy Creek (a tributary to the south fork of the Smith River), Del Norte Co., California. The snake measured 663 mm SVL and 784 mm TL; mass = 200 g. Sixteen ova were palpated in the field. The snake was brought to our laboratory, kept at normal (late summer, northern California) photoperiod and temperature conditions and provided with a "hot rock." She fed readily on large banana slugs (*Ariolimax* sp.) and shed once during her eight weeks in captivity. On 1 October 18 young were born - 17 live and one dead. Eleven of the live young were males and 6 were females. Neonates were measured shortly after their first shed and SVLs ranged from 136 to 148 mm ( $\bar{X}$  = 142.9 mm); TLs ranged from 179 to 200 mm ( $\bar{X}$  = 189.5 mm); masses ranged from 2.0 to 2.5 g ( $\bar{X}$  = 2.09 g). These lengths and the sex ratio are similar to those observed for young of large females (>500 mm SVL) in the Willamette Valley, northern Oregon (Stewart op. cit.).

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