First record of the forest racer snake *Dendrophidion percarinatum* (Cope, 1893) (Serpentes: Colubridae) from Venezuela


The genus *Dendrophidion* Fitzinger currently comprises nine species (Savage 2002) of diurnal semiarboreal colubrids, of medium size (84 to 164 cm), body slightly compressed, dorsal scales keeled, head differentiated from the neck, eyes prominent, pupils round, and with a very long tail (30-50% of the total length). This genus is distributed from Central America to northern South America. In Venezuela only two species are currently known: *D. dendrophis* south of the Orinoco river (Bolivar and Amazonas states), and *D. nuchale* from the Coastal Range and Sierra de Perijá (Lieb 1988).

In this note we document the finding of a specimen of *D. percarinatum* (Fig. 1) in Venezuelan territory. This constitutes the first valid record from the country and the third species of *Dendrophidion* known from Venezuela. Previous records of *D. percarinatum* from Venezuela (Lancini 1986, 1989, Roze 1966) were based on misidentification of *D. nuchale* (see Lieb 1988). The specimen reported herein comes from finca “El Progreso” in the upper basin of the Socuy river, Sierra de Perijá, Jesús Enrique Lossada municipality, Zulia state, northwestern Venezuela (10°43’13.30”N -72°29’16.60”W), approx. 840 m asl. This specimen was found active at 1900 h in deforested area of the cloud forest, near a