

Two female *S. boursieri* (DFCH-USFQ 701-702) were collected from the “Río Guajalito” protected forest (78°49’W, 0°14’S, elev. 1900 m), at the beginning of the dry season in June 2001 at 1400 h. This private reserve is located 59 km W of Quito among montane cloud forest on the northwestern slope of the Andes in Pichincha Province, Ecuador. One of the snakes (DFCH-USFQ 701) was found lying motionless upon sunlit leaf litter in the bottom of a dry ditch, ca. 5 m from the river and 25 m from human habitations. The other specimen (DFCH-USFQ 702) was found on the forest floor near a small trail, ca. 40 m from the river and 100 m from human habitations. Both females were gravid. Dissection revealed that DFCH-USFQ 701 (467 mm SVL, mass without eggs of 43.3 g) had five soft-shelled eggs that had a mean length of 30.4 mm (range 28.0–31.8 mm), mean width of 11.9 mm (range 10.1–13.0 mm), mean mass of 2.6 g (range 2.3–3.3 g, total clutch mass = 12.9 g), and a mean volume of 2.3 cm³ (range 1.7–2.8 cm³). The second female (DFCH-USFQ 702; 410 mm SVL) contained five immature ovarian eggs, the largest was 16.2 mm in length. Another female (FHGO-USFQ 003; 610 mm SVL) collected in April 1996 at San Antonio, Imbabura Province (near Ibarra, 78°09’W, 00°20’S, elev. 2500 m) contained seven unshelled oviductal eggs. Eggs had a mean length of 24.2 mm (range 15.7–29.6 mm). The stomach of one specimen (DFCH-USFQ 701) contained a larval hymenopteran and an orthopteran nymph (volume of both items = 0.2 cm³). The other specimen (DFCH-USFQ 702) contained a partially digested gymnophthalmid lizard, *Proctoporus* cf. *unicolor* (volume = 0.6 cm³). These observations of *S. boursieri* support Myers’ hypothesis (1973. *op. cit.*) that snakes of the genus *Saphenophis* are principally diurnal. Moreover, *Saphenophis* seem to be essentially terrestrial and feed on a variety of prey from invertebrates to lizards. The three females and eggs are deposited at the Laboratorio de Anfibios y Reptiles, Universidad San Francisco de Quito.

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Submitted by **DIEGO F. CISNEROS-HEREDIA**, Laboratorio de Anfibios & Reptiles, Universidad San Francisco de Quito, Avenida Interoceanica y calle Diego de Robles, Campus Cumbaya, Edificio Maxwell. P.O. Box 17-12-841, Quito, Ecuador; e-mail: diegofrancisco_cisneros@yahoo.com.

SAPHENOPHIS BOURSIERI (NCN). **HABITAT, REPRODUCTION and DIET.** *Saphenophis boursieri* is a neotropical snake known from the western slopes of the Andes (elev. 1100–1890 m) in Ecuador and southern Colombia, with disjunct records on the Amazonian lowlands of eastern Ecuador (Myers 1973. *Amer. Mus. Novitates* 2522). The genus *Saphenophis* is poorly represented in scientific collections (Myers, *op. cit.*; pers. obs.), and almost nothing is known of the natural history of any species of this genus. Myers (1969. *Amer. Mus. Novitates* 2385; *op. cit.*) reported “at least four large oviductal eggs, one (revealed by dissection) measuring 9 by 23 mm” in the paratype of *Saphenophis sneiderni* (394 mm SVL), and “large eggs in the oviducts” in the holotype of *Saphenophis antioquensis* (ca. 506 mm SVL). A specimen of *Saphenophis tristriatus* found “between 11 and 12 A.M... was lying in the sun on a wood bridge.” Unfortunately, none of the specimens had collection dates. Herein I provide novel data on habitat, reproduction and diet for *S. boursieri*.