

OPHRYACUS UNDULATUS (Horned Pit Viper). **DIGESTIVE DISTURBANCE.** *Ophryacus undulatus* is a semiarboreal species distributed in the Sierra Madre del Sur of Guerrero and Oaxaca, west-central Veracruz, the Mixteca region in Oaxaca (Campbell and Lamar 1989. The Venomous Reptiles of Latin America. Comstock Publ. Assoc., Cornell Univ. Press, Ithaca, New York, 425 pp.), and Hidalgo (O. Flores, pers. comm.).

An adult male *O. undulatus*, SVL = 536 mm (MZFC-04825), was collected on 14 July 1990 at El Portrero, Tenango de Doria, Hidalgo. This snake had an intestinal obstipation, which dissection revealed to be a skull of the Mexican vole (*Microtus mexicanus*). Part of the skull, especially the broken zygomatic arches, projected into the wall of the large intestine, obstructing free passage of feces. Scales and bones of one *Sceloporus grammicus* (mesquite lizard) that was ingested in captivity were also found.

A detailed external macroscopic examination of the affected area revealed strong swelling of the intestinal wall and although the wounds caused by the pieces of the zygomatic arches were healed over, they still contained the whole bone mass.

Information regarding this kind of perturbation is known only from captive animals (e.g., *Boa constrictor*) and more often in terrestrial chelonians (Frye 1981. Biomedical and Surgical Aspects of Captive Reptile Husbandry. Veterinary Medicine Publ. Co.). Our observation suggests that misdigested prey items in natural conditions may have potentially lethal consequences.

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Submitted by **E. HERNANDEZ GARCIA, F. MENDOZA QUIJANO, I. GOYENECHEA-MAYER**, Museo de Zoología, Fac. de Ciencias, UNAM Apdo. Postal 70-399, México, D.F. 04510, México, and **E. GODINEZ CANO**, Laboratorio de Herpetología (Vivario) ENEP-Iztacala, Apdo. Postal 314, Tlalnepantla, México, México.