
An Unusually Large Diamond-Backed Water Snake (*Natrix rhombifera*) From Buncombe Creek, Lake Texoma¹

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A large *Natrix rhombifera* was removed from a net set in 3 feet of water across Buncombe Creek, one half mile up the channel from its bay on Lake Texoma, Marshall County, Oklahoma, by Virgil E. Dowell and Ronald C. Elkins, fishery biology students, on July 11, 1954. This snake appeared to have become entangled in the net and drowned.

A gravid female measured as follows: body length—126 cm. (49 5/8 inches), total length—139.3 cm. (54 7/8 inches), weight— 4 pounds, 10 ounces. The total measurement was very misleading due to the fact that approximately one half of the tail was missing.

In order to get an estimate of the actual total length, a series of females of this species were measured. The length of tail as per cent of total length for this series ranged from 20.6 per cent to 22.2 per cent. Using the minimum percentage, the individual here considered would then have had a total length of 157.5 cm. (62 inches) or with the average percentage for the series, a total length of 160.1 cm. (63 inches).

The size record for this species, so far as my knowledge goes, is 149 cm. (57 inches) listed by Cagle (1) for a female from Reelfoot Lake, Tennessee, which is exceeded here by 5 to 6 inches.

LITERATURE CITED

1. Cagle, F. R. 1937. Notes on *Natrix rhombifera* as observed at Reelfoot Lake. J. Tennessee Acad. Sci 12:179-185.

¹ Received for publication December 17, 1954.