



Oviposition by Indian Rock Pythons, *Python molurus* (Linnaeus 1758), in an Artificial Refuge

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Ramesh and Bhupathy (2010) reviewed the literature pertaining to the breeding biology of Indian Rock Pythons (*Python molurus*), much of which is based on observations in captivity. Herein we document an instance of two Indian Rock Pythons depositing and incubating eggs in an artificial refuge (Fig. 1).

At 1600 h on 7 July 2017, during a visit to Khengaria, Ahmadabad District, Gujarat, India (23.014116°N, 72.043059°E), we found two pythons, about 170 cm apart, coiled around egg clutches inside a concrete underground pipe measuring 25.4 cm in diameter (Fig. 2). The larger female nearest the opening of the pipe was approximately 2.6 m in total length and had a clutch of 14 eggs. The other female, with a total length of about 2.1 m, had a clutch of 22 eggs. When we checked on the snakes a month later, both females had abandoned the site, but remains of eggshells indicated that both clutches had hatched successfully.

Acknowledgements

We thank the Gujarat Forest Department, Wildlife Care Centre, Ahmedabad, and our team members, Arif Theba,

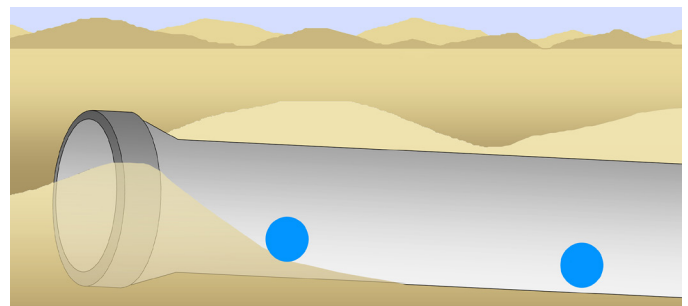


Fig. 2. Schematic of the concrete pipe showing the location of the two Indian Rock Pythons (*Python molurus*) and their clutches (indicated by blue circles). Illustration by Khan Ashaharraza.

Ami Shrimali, Gopal Jani, Sanjay Chavda, Rohit Sabaliya, Abhishek Jadwani, Devarshi Nayak, and Darshan Soni.

Literature Cited

Ramesh, C. and S. Bhupathy. 2010. Breeding biology of *Python molurus molurus* in Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur, India. *Herpetological Journal* 20: 157–163.



Fig. 1. Two Indian Rock Pythons (*Python molurus*) attending eggs inside a concrete pipe. Photograph by Jaydeep Maheta.