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## LITERATURE

*This column will give information about new literature, publications, books etc. Tips concerning new literature are welcome, and should be sent to: Jan Cor Jacobs, Tesselschadestraat 6, 3521 XV Utrecht, The Netherlands.*

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Population ecology of the Lake Erie Water snake, *Nerodia sipedon insularum*; Richard B. King. Copeia, 1986 (3): 757-772.

Population ecology of the Lake Erie water snake, *Nerodia sipedon insularum*, is described based on a 5 year capture-mark-recapture study involving 1449 captures of 1247 individuals. Water snakes are widespread in the island area of Lake Erie but have declined in numbers and have disappeared from one island within the last 50 years (West Sister Island). Population estimates for adult snake range from 25 to about 500 individuals on seven islands. Snakes are active from late April until early October. Males are caught most often during the breeding season in May and June, whilst females are taken most frequently later in the summer. Females appear to feed over a longer portion of active season than males (females from 8 May till 28 September, males from 3 June till 9 July), grow at a faster rate and attain a larger body size (82.1 versus 62.5 cm mean snout-vent length). Weight gain occurs throughout the active season in adult females but is restricted to mid-summer in adult males. Some females reproduce annually but smaller females may skip opportunities to reproduce. Number and size of offspring are positively correlated with female size. Comparisons with data from mainland populations elsewhere in the range of this species indicate that island

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water snakes differ in having larger adult body sizes (mean snout-vent length is 10-16 cm greater in males and 13-14 cm greater in females), lower growth rates and shorter tails. In addition, litter size is less strongly correlated with female body size in island populations. Differences may also exist in size of newborn young (mean newborn SVL of mainland populations are shorter than that of island populations), diet (mainland populations typically consume more amphibians and fewer fish), and intensity of predation (frequency of stub tails is two times greater in mainland populations).

Comparisons between the natural and captive environments of the Sinaloan milk snake (*Lampropeltis triangulum sinaloae*); S.G. Norrie. The Herpetile, 1985, Vol. 10 (3): 90-92.

The author gives information on climatic conditions in the area of distribution of *Lampropeltis triangulum sinaloae*. Details dealt with are: average temperature, daily maximum and daily minimum temperature, humidity and the average rainfall in inches.