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VIPERIDAE

Bitis parviocula Böhme 1977

Ethiopian Mountain Adder

REPRODUCTION

Bitis parviocula is an enigmatic, large-bodied viperid snake described from montane habitats in Ethiopia (Böhme 1977; Largen & Rasmussen 1993). Despite being known for close to four decades, hardly any information is available regarding its basic biology, primarily as a result of the apparent rarity of the species in nature and the resultant paucity of specimens in museum collections (Phelps 2010). Here we report previously unknown reproductive information for *Bitis parviocula*, based on three litters born to two female snakes living in captivity in Europe. *Bitis parviocula* neonates were born in May and varied substantially in size, ranging from 170 mm to 240 mm in total length, and 8.2 g to 24.0 g in mass. Litter size was correlated with female body size (Pearson's $r = 0.96$), and overall sex ratio for the sample 18 males to 21 females did not differ significantly from 1:1 ($\chi^2 = 0.051$; $P = 0.82$; Table 1).

Data like those presented here are useful in trying to understand patterns of ecological diversification and conservation of the species concerned. Despite their inherent value, they are often unavailable for several species that may be poorly represented in the scientific literature but known to herpetoculturalists. We encourage people with such data to make it available.

Table 1: Female body size, litter size, and sex ratios for three litters of *Bitis parviocula* born in captivity

Snake	Year	Total length (mm)	No. offspring	Sex ratio (M:F)
Female 1	2011	780	11	1 : 0.57
	2012	900	12	1 : 1.4
Female 2	2012	1050	16	1 : 1.7

REFERENCES

- BÖHME, W. 1977. Eine neue Art der Gattung *Bitis* (Serpentes, Viperidae) aus Äthiopien. *Monit. Zool. Ita.*: 59-68.
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- PHELPS, T. 2010. *Old World Vipers: A Natural History of the Azemiopinae and Viperinae*. Pp 308 - 309. Edition Chimaira, Frankfurt and Main, Germany.

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VIPERIDAE***Bitis rubida* (Branch, 1997)****Red Adder****REPRODUCTION**

On 04 January 2013 at approximately 19:20 a female Red Adder (*Bitis rubida*) was discovered beneath a large rock (3320AB, 906 m