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OLIGODON TAENIATUS (Striped Kukri Snake). ENDOPARASITE. *Oligodon taeniatus* is known to occur from parts of Thailand, Paksé, Champasak Provinces, Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam (Das 2010. A Field Guide to the Reptiles of South-east Asia, Myanmar Thailand Laos Cambodia, Vietnam. Peninsular Malaysia, Singapore, Sumatra, Borneo, Java, Bali. New Holland Publishers, London, UK. 376 pp.). We know of no reports of endoparasites from *O. taeniatus*. In this note we establish the initial helminth list for *O. taeniatus*.

One *O. taeniatus* from Don Khong Island (14.11739°N, 105.85548°E; WGS 84), Champasak Province, southern Laos was collected on 3 December 2016. On external examination, two dozen bumps with coiled helminths were noted under the integument. Small incisions were made through which helminths were removed (Fig. 1). The helminths were preserved in 70% ethanol and shipped to CRB for identification. The *O. taeniatus* was subsequently released. On the basis of morphology (white, wrinkled, ribbon-shaped unsegmented strobila approximately 25 mm in length; anterior end rounded with suggestions of sucking grooves that are present in the scolex of *Spirometra*), the helminths were identified as sparagnum (Smyth 1976. Introduction to Animal Parasitology, 3rd ed. Cambridge Univ. Press, UK. 549 pp.). The sparagnum was sent to the Harold W. Manter Parasitology Laboratory, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska, USA, as HWML 99820.

A sparagnum is a larval form (plerocercoid) of a *Spirometra* tapeworm (Smyth, *op. cit.*). The *O. taeniatus* likely became infected with the sparagnum by eating infected prey; frogs or lizards are known parts of their diet (Das, *op. cit.*). No further development will occur in the *O. taeniatus*, which would have served as a transport (paratenic) host until it was eaten by a carnivore in which development to the adult *Spirometra* would have occurred. The sparagnum in *O. taeniatus* represents a new host record.

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OPHEODRYS VERNALIS (=LIOCHLOROPHIS VERNALIS) (Smooth Greensnake). FIRE MORTALITY AND PHENOLOGY. On 11 April 2017, we discovered two *Opheodrys vernalis* (total lengths = 31 and 39 cm; Fig. 1) deceased among ashes, along with one deceased *Thamnophis sirtalis* (Common Gartersnake; total length = 63 cm), following a prescribed burn to control woody encroachment in the flood plain of the Platte River on Shoemaker Island, Hall County, Nebraska, USA (40.79660°N, 98.46978°W, WGS 84; 597 m elev.). The long rectangular burn consisted of 0.26 ha (40 × 650 m) of shrub-encroached, lowland tallgrass prairie bordered on the north by the Platte River. A pre-burn assessment of vegetation noted extensive encroachment by Eastern Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) and American Plum (*Prunus americana*). The burn unit was largely dominated by senesced Big Bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*) with emerging green vegetation that included Western Marbleseed (*Onosmodium molle*) and Kentucky Bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*). The area had predominantly sandy soils and also contained a significant amount of Brittle Prickly Pear Cactus (*Opuntia fragilis*). The controlled burn was a backing and flanking fire that covered the unit in about 35 min beginning at 1404 h. The burn was relatively hot, leaving little remaining vegetation; relative humidity at time of ignition was 39% and ambient temperature was 16°C. Our observations represent the first recorded mortality for *O. vernalis* as a result of a prairie fire (Ernst and Ernst 2003. Snakes of the United States and Canada. Smithsonian Books, Washington, D.C. 680 pp.) and an in-depth description of habitat for this species in Nebraska (Ballinger et al. 2010. Amphibians and Reptiles of Nebraska. Rusty Lizard Press, Oro Valley, Arizona. 400 pp.). Our observations also represent the earliest reported records of activity in Nebraska, as little is known about the phenology of *O. vernalis* in the state (Ballinger et al. 2010, *op. cit.*; Fogell 2010. A Field Guide to the Amphibians and



FIG. 1. *Oligodon taeniatus* from southern Laos infected by *Spirometra* sp.



FIG. 1. One of two *Opheodrys vernalis* collected following a controlled burn on 11 April 2017 at Shoemaker Island, Hall County, Nebraska. Left: Ventral side of snake placed next to cm ruler. Right: Dorsal side of individual upon collection in situ.