

MEXICAN BURROWING PYTHON

Loxocemus bicolor

Cope, 1861



CLASSIFICATION

Class: Reptilia

Order: Squamata

Family: Loxocemidae

No subspecies recognized



APPENDIX II

VERY RARE



LEAST CONCERN

Identification: Adults can reach a maximum length of 1.57 m but are usually around 80 cm. Cylindrical body, narrow head, shovel-shaped snout and small eyes. Coloration purplish-brown with yellow belly.

Range: The species occurs in Central America from Southern Mexico (Oaxaca, Morelos, Michoacan) to Costa Rica.

Habitat: Mostly found in tropical forests, both moist and dry.

Behavior: This species is very shy and usually nocturnal with semi-fossorial habits. It feeds on small mammals and lizards, occasionally on iguana's eggs. Egg layer.

Status in the wild: The species is uncommon in the wild and not considered threatened. It may be locally persecuted as wrongly thought to be venomous.

In captivity: Very rare species in captivity, being kept in 4 European collections and probably less than 10 zoos around America. The world's first captive breeding for this species has occurred in Moscow Zoo in 1995. Very rare in private collections.