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Plestiodon egregius insularis (Cedar Key Mole Skink). Reproduction.

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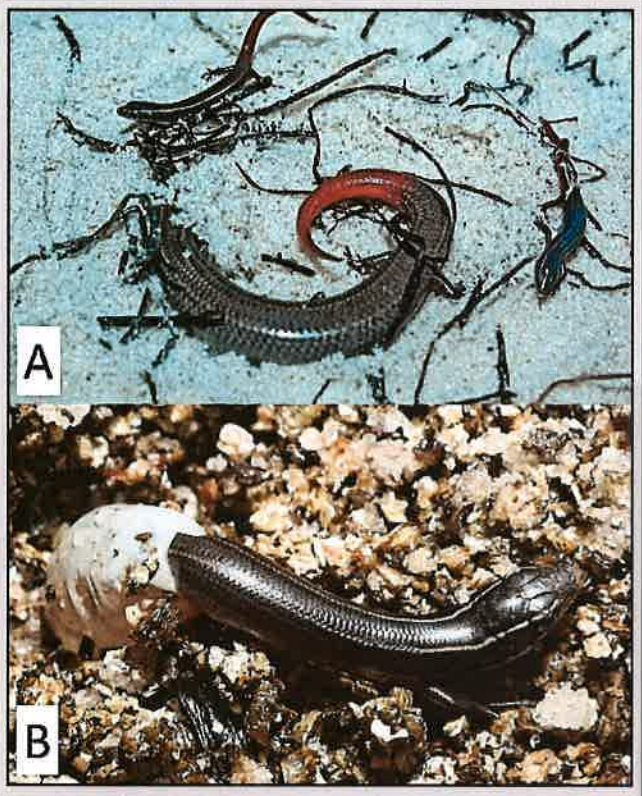
***PLESTIODON EGREGIUS INSULARIS* (Cedar Key Mole Skink).**
REPRODUCTION. *Plestiodon egregius insularis* is the largest of five described subspecies (Mount 1965. Bull. Florida St. Mus. Biol. Sci. 9:183–213) and is known from only nine small islands off the coast of Levy County, Florida, USA. The only documented clutch size for *P. e. insularis* contained five eggs (Mount 1963. Am. Midl. Nat. 70:356–385). For wild *P. egregius*, Mount (1963, *op. cit.*) reported 2–9 (mean = 4.8) eggs for 13 clutches, and Hamilton and Pollack (1958. Herpetologica 14:25–28) found two nests of *P. e. similis* in Georgia containing five eggs each. In captivity, wild-caught female *P. egregius* from Florida laid eggs from April to mid-June, and they attended the eggs until they hatched 31–51 d later (Mount 1963, *op. cit.*). Here we report on clutch sizes, including a new maximum clutch size, and developmental times of *P. e. insularis*.



(A) PHOTO BY J. SCOTT; (B) PHOTO BY R. D. BARTLETT

FIG. 1. A female *Plestiodon egregius insularis* and two hatchlings from a clutch of 13 eggs (A) and a hatchling from a clutch of 10 eggs (B) from Airstrip Island, Levy County, Florida, USA.

We captured a gravid female *P. e. insularis* on 25 April 2010 at the George T. Lewis Airport on Airstrip Island in Cedar Key (29.132°N, 83.053°W; WGS 84; 3 m elev.). This lizard oviposited 13 eggs on 6 May 2010, and eight of these eggs hatched 55 d later on 10 July 2010 (Fig. 1A). A second gravid female, collected on 14 April 2013 at the same airport, oviposited 10 eggs on 23 April 2013; nine of these eggs hatched 56 d later on 18 June 2013 (Fig. 1B). In both instances, the females and their offspring were released at the site of capture. In addition, three gravid *P. e. insularis* (SVL range: 52–53 mm) that were collected on 5–26 March 1989 by LAS from the same location oviposited four, four, and five eggs in captivity on 15–24 May 1989.

To our knowledge, the clutch size of 13 eggs is a new record for this species, two more than the previous maximum reported size (N = 11; Bartlett and Bartlett 1999. A Field Guide to Florida Reptiles and Amphibians. Gulf Publishing, Houston, Texas. 280 pp.). With the addition of our five clutch size observations, the total number of known clutch sizes for *P. egregius* is now 20 and increases the known mean from 4.8 to 5.4 eggs per clutch. For our two largest clutches, we found egg developmental times four and five d longer than the maximum reported by Mount (1963, *op. cit.*). We maintained both clutches at ca. 24°C in moistened vermiculite in plastic containers (16.5 × 16.5 × 5.1 cm) with the eggs partially buried, whereas Mount (1963, *op. cit.*) maintained his clutches along with the mothers in wide-mouthed, gallon-sized glass jars with 8 cm of slightly moistened sand. Mount (1963, *op. cit.*) had incubation times that varied by 20 d and reported that temperature was apparently the most important factor in determining incubation period length, but he did not provide temperature data. We do not know if our longer developmental times were due to cooler incubation temperatures or other environmental factors.

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