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BOA CONSTRICTOR (Boa Constrictor)

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BOA CONSTRICTOR (Boa Constrictor). USA: PUERTO RICO: MUNICIPALITY OF CABO ROJO: Cabo Rojo National Wildlife Refuge (17.978958°N, 67.170910°W; NAD 83). 10 November 2014. O. A. Diaz-Marrero. Verified by S. M. Boback. National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution (USNM Herp Image 2838a, b; photo vouchers). First municipality record for this exotic species; all previous reports were restricted to the Municipality of Mayaguez, located ca. 25 km north of Cabo Rojo National Wildlife Refuge. Reynolds et al. (2013. *Biol. Invasions* 15:953–959) concluded that Boa Constrictor introductions into Puerto Rico were likely related to the pet trade and that they genetically matched snakes belonging to the South American clade (*B. constrictor*), instead of *B. imperator*, the Mesoamerican species (Hynková et al. 2009. *Zool. Sci.* 26:623–631). It also represents the first report of this species from a protected area in Puerto Rico.

An interesting feature relates to why the snake was detected in the first place. It was a direct result of USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services personnel tracking a radio-collared Mongoose (*Herpestes auropunctatus*) as part of a rabies study. The collar was broadcasting a mortality signal that was tracked to the fairly large gravid female *B. constrictor*, which was captured, sacrificed, and later underwent a necropsy that revealed a fully digested mongoose and its functional intact radio collar.

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