



MICRURUS DISTANS (West Mexican Coral Snake). **TREE CLIMBING.** Snakes of the genus *Micrurus* are secretive and largely fossorial, and are often found under cover objects such as leaves, stones, and logs (Roze 1996. Coral Snakes of the Americas: Biology, Identification, and Venoms. Krieger Publ., Malabar, Florida). To our knowledge, there are no records of arboreality for this species. On 24 September 2001, at 1230 h, while conducting a survey on the herpetofauna of the Cuixmala-Chamela Biosphere Reserve on the coast of Jalisco, México, we observed a *M. distans* (790 mm TL) climbing a mature tree at ca. 4.5 m above the ground. The tree was part of a small patch of remnant dry forest immersed in a matrix of livestock grazing plots in different stages of regeneration. Air temperature was 29.1°C and humidity was 84.6%. Upon discovery the snake climbed down the tree and disappeared under the ground litter (specimen was photographed while climbing down). This observation suggests that this typically ground-dwelling species of coral snake may occasionally climb trees, perhaps to hunt prey not readily available on the ground. Two previous publications report the presence of *M. distans* in the area we describe herein but make no reference to arboreal habits (García and Ceballos 1994. Guía de Campo de los Reptiles y Anfibios de la Costa de Jalisco, Mexico, Fundación Ecologica de Cuxmala and IB UNAM, Mexico:184 pp.; and Ramírez-Bautista 1994. Manual y Claves Ilustradas de los Anfibios y Reptiles de la Región de Chamela, Jalisco, México. Cuadernos IB UNAM [23]:1-127).

We thank Javier Alvarado Díaz, Alfredo Estrada Virgen, Miriam Quintero-Mora, and Karla Grissel Jaimez Novas for assistance in field work and the Coordinación de Investigación Científica, UMSNH project 5.5 for financial assistance. We thank E. N. Smith for his editorial help and Antonio Hernández for photographic work.

Submitted by **IRERISUAZO-ORTUÑO**, Instituto de Ecología de la UNAM, Departamento de Recursos Naturales, Antigua Carretera a Pátzcuaro No. 8701, Col. ExHacienda de San Jose de la Huerta, Morelia, Michoacán, CP 04510, México; **OSCAR FLORES-VILLELA**, Museo de Zoología, Facultad de Ciencias, UNAM, A.P. 70-399, México D.F. 04510, México; and **DANIEL GARCIA-PARRA**, Departamento de Zoología, Instituto de Investigaciones sobre los Recursos Naturales, UMSNH, Apto. 35-A, Morelia, Michoacán, México.