CROTALUS RAVUS (Mexican Pygmy Rattlesnake). DIET. The feeding habits of Crotalus (= Sistrurus) ravus have not been thoroughly documented. Uribe-Peña et al. (1999. Anfibios y Reptiles de las Serranias del Distrito Federal, México. Cuadernos, IB UNAM 32:82) refer to a paper by Sánchez-Herrera (1980. Bull. Maryland Herpetol. Soc. 16:9-18) indicating that this species consumes vertebrates, such as lizards (Sceloporus grammicus and Sceloporus megalepidurus), mammals (Mus musculus and Microtus mexicanus), and insects. Nevertheless, data on the diet of C. ravus are not contained in Sánchez-Herrera (op. cit.). In fact, S. megalepidurus does not occur in the mountains surrounding Distrito Federal (Smith 1939. Zool. Ser. Field. Mus. Nat. Hist. 26:204; Sites et al. 1992. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. 213:45). The reference cited by Uribe-Peña et al. (1999) is from the unpublished bachelors thesis of O. Sánchez-Herrera (1980. Herpetofauna de Tlaxcala. Fac. de Ciencias, UNAM, México, 155 pp.).

Here we report on a juvenile female C. ravus collected on 17 August 2002 in the vicinity of Mexico City, in the mountains surrounding the Valley of Mexico (Huixquilucan, Zacamulpa, State of Mexico). This specimen was deposited in the Museo de Zoologia, Facultad de Ciencias (MZFC 14287). Measurements were obtained before dissection (SVL 167 mm, TL = 186 mm, HL = 15.1 mm, and HW = 10 mm). Upon dissection, a partially digested adult S. grammicus and a specimen of the Order Hemiptera (possibly a member of Pentatomidae, head and wings) were in the stomach. O. Sánchez-Herrera (op. cit.) refers to four specimens of C. ravus collected by him in the Mexican State of Tlaxcala. He found the lizards and mice cited above, and also noted that one small individual (TL 216 mm) contained a large (27.3 x 10.4 mm) cricket (Orthoptera, Gryllidae). Our observations confirm that, in addition to lizards and small mammals, certain insects constitute a portion of the diet of juvenile C. ravus.

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