

PELAMIS PLATURA (Yellow-bellied Seasnake). MATING BEHAVIOR. The wide range of *P. platura* includes tropical and subtropical waters of the Western Hemisphere (Campbell and Lamar 2004. *The Venomous Reptiles of the Western Hemisphere*. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, New York, xviii + 870 + 28 pp.; Sasa et al. 2010. *In* Wilson et al. [eds.], *Conservation of Mesoamerican Amphibians and Reptiles*, pp. 511–603 Eagle Mountain Publishing, LC., Eagle Mountain, Utah). The reproductive cycle of this species apparently is continuous throughout the year, but two birthing peaks have been reported, one in December and January and other in July and August (Solórzano 2004. *Serpientes de Costa Rica / Snakes of Costa Rica*. Editorial INBio, Santo Domingo Heredia, Costa Rica, 791 pp.). On a sunny morning in August 2009 we observed two *P. platura* copulating while floating on the surface of calm water (Fig. 1) at Archipiélago Murciélago,

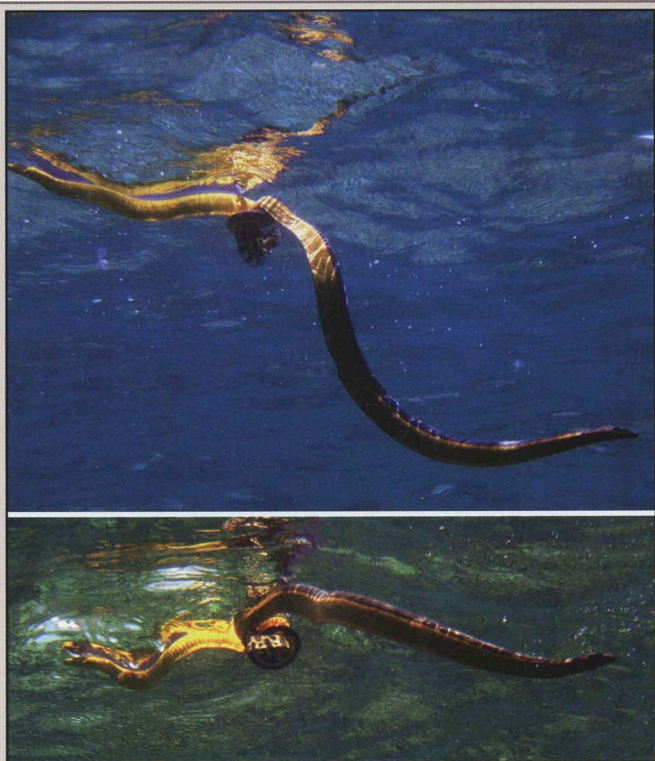


FIG. 1. A pair of *Pelamis platura* copulate while floating on the sea surface at San Pedrito, Archipiélago Murciélago, Guanacaste province, Costa Rica. Photos by Minor Lara, courtesy of María Marta Chavarría, Guanacaste Conservation Area (A.C.G.)

San Pedrito, Guanacaste Conservation Area (A.C.G.), Marine Protected Sector, La Cruz, Costa Rica (85.9541°W, 10.8559°N, datum: WGS84). Both individuals slowly moved their heads in a vertical motion, while their tails remained intertwined. This is the first report of mating behavior in this species.

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