

SHORT COMUNICATION

UROTHECA DECIPIENS* (SERPENTES: COLUBRIDAE): FIRST RECORD FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF RISARALDA, COLOMBIA*Héctor Fabio Arias-Monsalve¹ & Julián Andrés Rojas-Morales²*

Urotheca decipiens (GÜNTHER, 1983), is a terrestrial dark brown snake distributed from Honduras to Colombia, inhabiting lowlands and highlands forest from 0-2740 m of elevation (MYERS, 1974; PÉREZ-SANTOS & MORENO, 1988; MCCRANIE, 2011). On 12 and 28 November 2008, three specimens of *U. decipiens* (Fig. 1, 2, Table 1) were founded in La Suiza village (4.730605° N 75.581716° W; WGS 84), municipality of Pereira, department of Risaralda, Colombia. All specimens were collected by HFAM and housed in the herpetological collection of the Museo de Historia Natural de la Universidad de Caldas (MHN-UC). Specimens MHN-UC 0123 and 0134, were found dead by run over on the dirt road between La Suiza and La Florida villages. Specimen MHN-UC 0133 was observed on 28 November crossing this road at 18:30 h. All specimens had incomplete tails. This is the first record of *U. decipiens* for the department of Risaralda, filling a gap between the Colombian northernmost locality in Medellín, Colombia, 2740 m of elevation (MYERS, 1974), and the closest known locality at the municipality of Filandia, department of Quindío (QUINTERO-ÁNGEL *et al.*, 2012). With this record (the fifth for Colombia), is confirmed the continuous distribution of *U. decipiens* in the Central Andes of this country, specifically in the medium Cauca river valley, where inhabits sub Andean and Andean forests between 1600-2740 m of elevation (MYERS, 1974; CASTRO-HERRERA & VARGAS-SALINAS, 2007). Moreover, the locality of this record is adjacent to the “Santuario de Flora y Fauna Otún Quimbaya”, which indicates that *U. decipiens* could be founded in that protected area. The only known previous record of *U. decipiens* in a Colombian protected area, was made by CASTRO-HERRERA & VARGAS-SALINAS (2007) for the “Reserva Forestal Bosque de Yotoco”, in the department of Valle del Cauca.

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Table 1. Morphological and meristics characters of three specimens of *Urotheca decipiens*, from Risaralda, Colombia.

	MHN-UC 0123	MHN-UC 0133	MHN-UC 0134
Sex	♂	♀	♂
Snout vent lenght (mm)	352	369	330
Tail lenght (mm)	95	42	202
Dorsal scale rows	17	17	17
Ventral scales	144	144	150
Subcaudal scales	34	17	85
Supralabial scales	7	7	7
Infralabial scales	7	7	7
Preocular/subpreocular	2/1	2/1	2/1
Postocular scales	2	2	2



Figure 1. View of the specimen MHN-UC 0133 in life. Note the orange-red coloration in the venter, a characteristic of the specimens founded in the middle Cauca River Valley region (see CASTRO-HERRERA & VARGAS-SALINAS 2007).



Figure 2. Dorsal and ventral views of the specimen MHN-UC 0133.(A) Total body, and (B) dorsal, lateral and ventral views of the head. Scale bar = 5 mm

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