Coniophanes lateritius Cope, 1862 is a medium-sized terrestrial snake endemic to Mexico that has been reported from the states of Sonora (Lara-Resendiz et al., 2016), Sinaloa, Nayarit, Jalisco, Colima (Ponce-Campos & Smith, 2001), and Michoacán (Suazo-Ortuño et al., 2014). Scant information on the habitat of the species is available, but it has been reported from thorn scrub, and tropical deciduous forests (Reyes-Velasco et al., 2009; Suazo-Ortuño et al., 2014) at elevations of 16 to 1589 m asl (Ponce-Campos, 2007). Here we report on the first records of C. lateritius from the state of Guerrero, Mexico, and the first report on its diet.

A juvenile female Coniophanes lateritius (MZFC 32626) was collected at 19:15 h on 27 June 2004 near the San Antonio-Ciudad Altamirano highway, municipality of Zihuatanejo de Azueta, Guerrero, México (17.95809°N, -101.2261°W, WGS-84; 1600 m; Fig. 1) as it was active in the forest floor. The habitat was tropical semi-deciduous forest. The specimen measured 126 mm in snout–vent length (SVL) with a tail length of 56 mm; 7/7 supralabials; 9/9 infralabials; 19-19-17 dorsal scale rows, smooth throughout; 149 ventrals and 96 subcaudals. This locality extends the previous known distribution 268 km SE from the nearest reported locality on a road from Coahuayana to Palos Marias, Michoacán (Suazo-Ortuño et al., 2014).

An adult female of C. lateritius (MZFC 31980) was donated to ENS on 17 June 2007 by Juan Carlos Flores from Cerro La Imagen, Ejido Zoyatepec, Municipality of Chilpancingo de los Bravo, Guerrero (17.3491°N, -99.5193°W, WGS-84; 1093 m). The specimen measures 272 mm SVL, 65+ tail length (broken tail); 7/7 supralabials; 9/9 infralabials; 19-19-17 dorsal scale rows; 164 ventrals and 47+ subcaudals. This locality is 461 km SE from the nearest record from Michoacán and 193 km SE from the record from Zihuatanejo de Azueta reported herein.

When examining the specimen from Zihuatanejo de Azueta (MZFC 32626), a bulge was detected in its stomach, suggesting the presence of a prey item. Upon dissection we obtained one egg measuring 13 mm in length (Fig. 1C). Although the egg cannot be associated with certainty to any species, because it is soft-shelled and has a leathery texture we assume it is an egg of a squamate reptile. Reptile eggs have been reported to be part of the diet of other congener such as C. fissidens (Seib, 1985) and C. schmidti (Köhler et al., 2017), but this is the first report of any prey item for C. lateritius.

Seib (1985) reported that C. fissidens ate more eggs in March and June, decreasing in frequency during the following months, probably a result of the reproductive patterns of sympatric amphibians and reptiles. The known distribution of C. lateritius exhibits a hiatus between the states of Michoacán and the new records from Guerrero reported herein (Fig. 2). Ponce-Campos and Smith (2001), when evaluating the species limits within the C. lateritius group, described C. sarae from the Sierra de Coalcomán in Michoacán and the lower Río Balsas drainage. The paratype of C. sarae (UMMZ
Figure 1. New specimens of *Coniophanes lateritius* from municipality of Chilpancingo (1A MZFC 31980) and Zihuatanejo (1B, MZFC 32626), Guerrero, Mexico. On the bottom MZFC 32626 is shown with its prey item.

Figure 2. Map showing the known localities of *C. lateritius* (white circles) and *C. sarae* (black squares) in southern portion of the range. The new records from Zihuatanejo (A) and Zoyatepec (B) are represented by black circles.
118958) came from 12 mi S Arteaga, and is 121 and 324 km WNW, respectively, from the Zihuatanejo and Zoyatepec records reported herein. The main differences noted by Ponce-Campos and Smith (2001) between C. sarae and C. lateritius were an orange dorsal coloration, the lack of a dark border posterior to the narrow pale neck ring following the black head and neck, and melanophores evenly distributed on back and sides. The specimen from Zoyatepec (MZFC 31980; Fig. 1A) shows a paler dorsal coloration, but also a dark border posterior to the pale neck ring and evenly distributed melanophores. In contrast, the specimen from Zihuatanejo (MZFC 32626, Fig. 1B, C) agrees well with all the characteristics reported in C. lateritius. We prefer to maintain a conservative posture and consider both Guerrero specimens as representatives of C. lateritius rather than C. sarae, even though these might more logically be considered the latter on the basis of distribution. The discovery of C. lateritius in Guerrero brings into question the validity of C. sarae and a comprehensive work evaluating the variation, taxonomic status, and distribution of these snakes is necessary.

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