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ANOTHER CASE OF ALBINISM IN A BLACK RAT SNAKE (*ELAPHE OBSOLETA OBSOLETA*) FROM VIRGINIA — Albinism has been reported occasionally for several species of snakes from Virginia locations. These include the eastern worm snake (*Carphophis amoenus amoenus*) from the City of Arlington, eastern milk snake (*Lampropeltis triangulum triangulum*) from Montgomery County, northern watersnake (*Nerodia sipedon sipedon*) from New Kent County, and three black rat snakes (*Elaphe obsoleta obsoleta*) from three widely separated locations (Mitchell, 1994b). Mitchell (1994a) described a xanthic *N. sipedon* from Giles County. Albinistic or partially albinistic black rat snakes have been reported from Rockingham County (Carroll, 1950), Westmoreland County (Hensley, 1959), and Washington County (D. Ogle, personal communication). The latter snake was a juvenile that retained the blotched pattern but had no black pigment.

On 14 August 1992, the second author discovered an albino *E. o. obsoleta* (VMNH 7103) in a highly urbanized area on Meadow Forest Road, north of the confluence of Drum

Point Creek and the Western Branch of the Elizabeth River, City of Chesapeake, Virginia. The snake was a juvenile female (375 mm snout-vent length, 67 mm tail length) and had been killed by vehicular traffic. Background body color both dorsally and ventrally, as well as the head, neck, and tail were pinkish white. Body blotches were visible but were very light tan in color. The eyes were pink in life. This albinistic specimen is the first to be reported from southeastern Virginia and the fourth known from the Commonwealth.

Literature Cited

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