RSN Sea Snake

*Aipysurus laevis laevis* Lacepede, *A. laevis pooleorum* subsp. nov.,

*A. duboisii* Bavay, *A. apraefrontalis* M.A. Smith, *A. tenuis* Lonnberg and

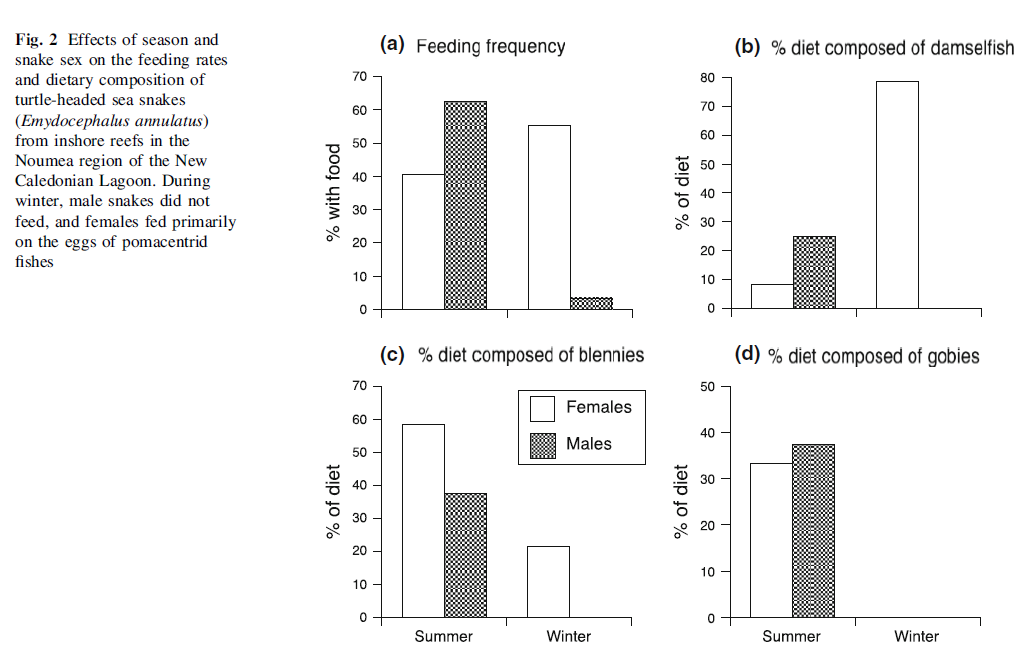
Andersson, *A. eydouxii* (Gray), *Hydrophis ocellatus* Gray, *H. major* (Shaw),

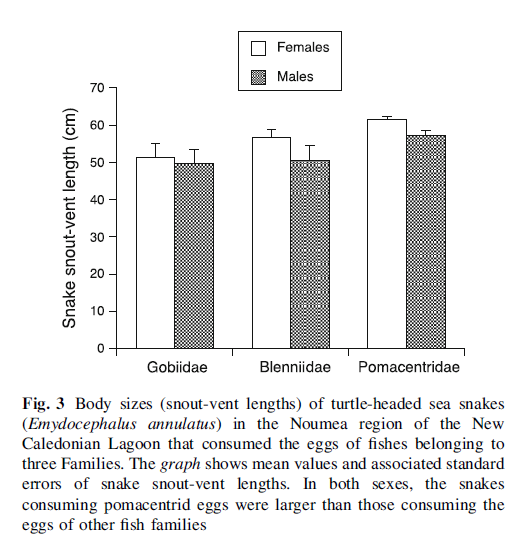
*H. kingii* Boulenger, *H. elegans* (Gray), *Acalyptophis peronii* (Dum€ril),

*Astrotia stokesii* (Gray), *Hydrelaps darwiniensis* Boulenger, *Ephalophis greyii*

M.A. Smith and *Pelamis platurus* (Linnaeus).

Emydocephalus annulatus (tropical west and east Australia)





Eel eaters.--*Hydrophis brookii, Hydrophisfasciatus, Hydrophis melanosoma, Laticauda colubrina* and *Microcephalophis gracilis* feed on anguilliform eels of four families,

Burrowing goby eaters.--Hydrophis caerulescens and Acalyptophis peronii feed predominantly on Trypauchenidae.

Goby eaters.-Acrochordus granulatus in the Straits of Malacca feeds on goby-like fishes that all be-long to the suborder Gobioidei.

Egg eaters.-Aipypysurus eydouxii is the only fish-egg eating species in the snake assemblages ex-amined in this study. The demersal eggs found in stomachs of A. eydouxii are similar to those found in the stomachs of Emydocephalus (Voris, 1966) and are assumed to have been taken from the burrows of small bottom dwelling fishes such as the gobies.

Catfish eaters.-A large sample of stomach con-tents indicates that Enhydrina schistosa at Muar feeds mainly on ariid and plotosid catfish. These fish frequently occur in small schools on or near the bottom. Details on the diet and feeding behavior of E. schistosa can be found elsewhere (Voris et al., 1978). No other well-sampled snake species in this study feeds on catfish.

Generalists.-Of the marine snake species rep-resented at the localities studied, only L. hard-wickii is a generalist, feeding on 21 families of fishes and two types of invertebrates, squid and cuttle fish. Its fish prey range from burrowing types such as gobies, burrowing gobies and eels to more pelagic forms such as the parrotfish and squid.

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| **prey item** | **probability of consuming** |
| FDT | 0.3 |
| CEP | 0.2 |
| FLR | 0.1 |
| FSR | 0.1 |
| FDC | 0.05 |
| FDO | 0.05 |
| FMA | 0.05 |

References

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