

First report of the Flowerpot Blindsnake, *Indotyphlops braminus* (Daudin, 1803), from La Désirade (Guadeloupe Archipelago, the French West Indies)

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We report, for the first time, the presence of the Flowerpot Blindsnake, *Indotyphlops braminus* (Daudin, 1803), on La Désirade (Guadeloupe Archipelago) in the Lesser Antilles. On July 2014, three individuals were found by one of us (JB) inside a pile of soil from earthworks near a house in an inhabited area southwest of the village of Baie-Mahault (16.3246, -61.0269, elevation 20 m). It is a typical situation for this species. Two of the snakes were collected and remained for a year in denatured alcohol before being preserved in 70% ethanol. Both have the same total length of 142 mm. The specimens have an unnaturally pale coloration for that normally dark species (Fig. 1).

Indotyphlops braminus is parthenogenetic and has a wide distribution, and may have originated in India (Hedges et al. 2014). Its introduction in the Lesser Antilles seems to be recent, with the first report from Anguilla (Censky & Hodge 1997). Since then, the species has been recorded from several other islands (Henderson & Breuil 2012, Powell et al. 2011, 2013), including the two main islands of Guadeloupe (Basse-Terre and Grande-Terre; Breuil & Ibéné 2008). Our report of *I. braminus* from La Désirade is also the first one for a surrounding island (islet) of Guadeloupe. The presence of the species should be investigated on the other islets of Guadeloupe.

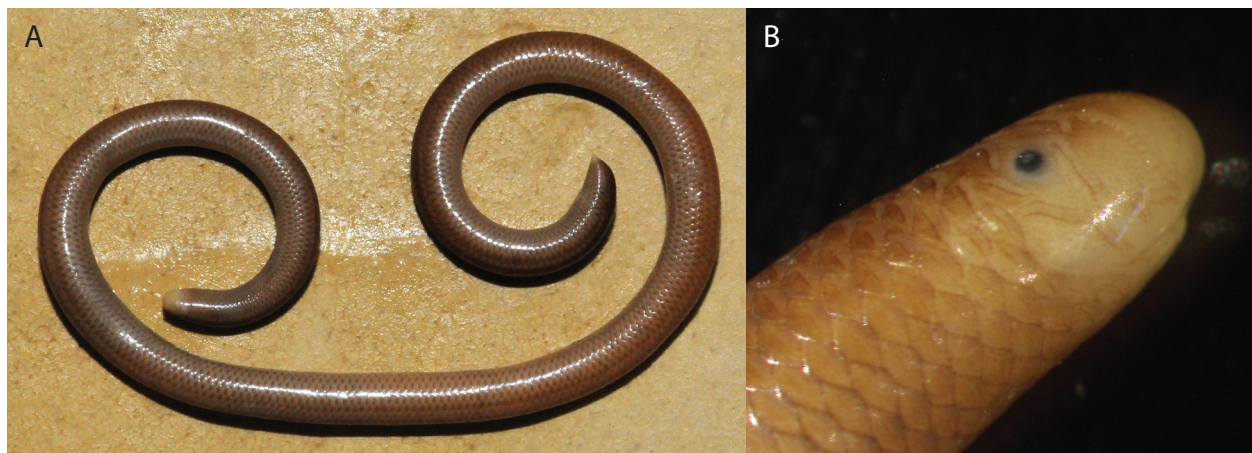


Figure 1. Body (A) and head (B) of a preserved specimen of the Flowerpot Blindsnake, *Indotyphlops braminus*, from La Désirade (Guadeloupe Archipelago).

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