

LAMPROPELTIS MEXICANA THAYERI (Gray-banded Kingsnake). **COLORATION.** A melanistic *Lampropeltis mexicana thayeri* was hatched from a clutch of 5 eggs on September 5th, 1982. The remaining 4 hatchlings exhibited normal coloration. The parents were siblings of a brood of 8 normal patterned offspring from an adult melanistic female and normal patterned male, the original collected stock. This stock was collected in the Galeana area of Nuevo Leon, Mexico.

The melanistic offspring is overall black (including eyes) with underlying "leonis" type banding evident when held up to light. It is behaving normally and readily feeding on lizards (*Eumeces*) and pink mice.

Considering the 1:4 ratio of the F_2 , and based on several other wild caught and captive bred melanistic specimens I am aware of, it would seem that this trait fits the classic Mendelian 1:2:1 ratio. Further reproduction, such as melanistic to heterozygous melanistic, will be carried out for more understanding of the recessive trait. One point of interest is that of the few *L. m. thayeri* that have been collected, several have been melanistic. The specimen was determined to be a male and is being maintained in the collection of the author.

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