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Use of RS/GIS with radio telemetry in the analysis of hame range, movements, Activity patterns and habitat characterization of the Puerto Rico Boa (Epicrates inornatus) at Mata de Plátano Reserve in Arecibo, Puerto Rico

The Mata de Plátano Reserve is located 7 km southwest of Arecibo, Puerto Rico. Cueva de los Culebrones (Snake's Cave) is located within the reserve. Radio telemetry was used to determine the home range, activity and movement patterns of E. inornatus. Eleven snakes (six females and five males) were fitted with transmitters. Average home range area for females was 7,800 m² whereas males average home range was 5,000 m² using the minimum convex polygon method. The mean area used during the non-reproductive period by females was 22,119 m² and for males 1,326 m². During the reproductive period all radio-tracked females used mean areas of 16,940 ^{m2} and all males used 18,500 m². Ten radio-tracked snakes returned at least twice to the cave. Females were active on 29% of the observations, whereas males were active 36%. Significant sexual differences in home range were absent in E inornatus, although a tendency for females to have a bigger home range was observed. Movement behavior showed by *E inornatus*, has notable implications for surveys and sites assessment. Sites should therefore be managed to ensure that all features needed by the species are available within relatively discrete patches; thus feeding and thermoregulatory requirements and the provision of shelter and protection should be available within a limited area. The use of remote sensing techniques and geographical information systems applications should be incorporated in the assessment of critical habitat designation in the management of endangered species.