9 mi. W Lawrence, Douglas Co., Kansas

June 11, 1961

Pet Pierson brought a copperhead for measuring and preserving.
It measured 272 mm total length.

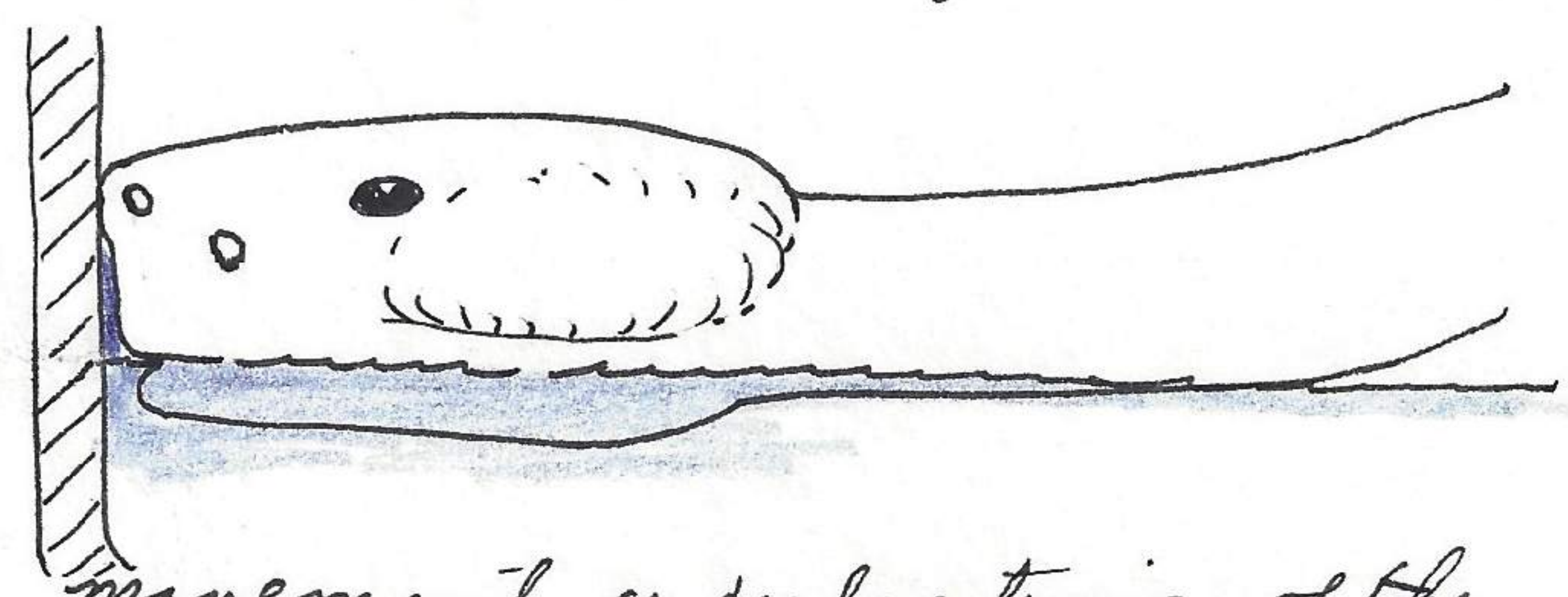Lawrence, Douglas Co., Kansas

June 18, 1961

Jefferson Brahler and I measured and weighed his boa snake
(see previous date for measurements). total length 1080 mm, wt 518 gms.
1063

Univ. Kansas, Lawrence, Douglas Co., Kansas

June 19, 1961 (Research 610619-1.)

A glass finger bowl (110 x 40 mm) was placed in an aquarium
cage of timber rattler, Crotalus horridus (captive since it was
9 inches long, 1954). This snake had not received water for at least
a month and cornea of eyes were opaque. The bowl was placed
5 inches from snake which reacted without concern but when
water was poured into bowl from about one foot high, the
snake immediately showed concern and directed its attention
toward the bowl. In approx. 1 minute it extended its neck
4 inches, parallel to but not toward the bowl and then redirected its course straight to the bowl. It investigated
for approx. 1 minute as if attempting to get at the water, suggest-
ing sight, rather than taste as the perception mechanism. After
30 seconds it extended its head and actively moving tongue up
and over the edge of the bowl to the water where, after testing
several times (3) with its tongue (into water), immediately lowered
its head onto the surface and
with slightly opened jaws
started to drink. The
masseteric muscles contract-
ed and relaxed in a rythmical
way with conspicuous ballonlike movements or pulsations of the
muscles and at a rate of about once every 2 seconds. The
lower mandible moved with each contraction of the masseteric
muscles but was almost imperceptable. There was no noticeable
movement of throat or lung area of snake. It held its nose
against the edge of the glass which brought water level 4 mm
higher than common level. It is conceivable that the
nostrils are held closed when drinking or more likely water
brought into full contact with mouth. It drank continuously
for approx 4 minutes and consumed approx 6 ml of water. It