

They took it alive and brought it to the USGS office in Davie, where they fitted it with radio transmitters and other devices and returned it to the Everglades.

Like a captured spy who becomes a double agent, the snake now worked for the U.S. government. It became what scientists call a "Judas snake," used by scientists to locate other snakes as they congregated for mating.

After following the snake's movements for several weeks, keeping it under surveillance by air and ground, they recaptured the snake April 19 and took it again to their offices in Davie. But this was the end of the snake's use to them, so it was euthanized using isoflurane gas.

They caught her before she laid the eggs. Newly hatched Burmese pythons are about 18 inches long and have a high rate of survival, said Hart of the USGS.

"When they hatch," she said, "they're ready to go."

Skip Snow, a biologist at Everglades National Park who specializes in pythons, said the capture was dramatic evidence of the species' reproductive capability. "There are not many records of how many eggs a large female snake carries in the wild," he said in a UF news release. "This shows they're a really reproductive animal, which aids in their invasiveness."

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Read the sentences below:

*Like a captured spy who becomes a double agent, the snake now worked for the U.S. government. It became what scientists call a "Judas snake," used by scientists to locate other snakes as they congregated for mating.*

1. ....
  - a. simile
  - b. metaphor
  - c. hyperbole
  - d. alliteration

Read the sentences below:

*Like a captured spy who becomes a double agent, the snake now worked for the U.S. government. It became what scientists call a "Judas snake," used by scientists to locate other snakes as they **congregated** for mating.*

2. What does the word **congregated** mean in this context?
  - a. fought
  - b. crawled
  - c. gathered
  - d. communicated