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Fig. 1. Iguana iguana discovered in gut of Python molurus bivittatus in Florida, USA.

Further examination revealed the partially digested carcass of an adult *I. iguana* (Fig. 1). This is noteworthy as it not only represents a newly documented diet record by *P. molurus bivittatus* in Florida, but also a newly documented predator of *I. iguana* in Florida. It also is significant as it represents one invasive reptile consuming another invasive reptile in Florida.

In Bharatpur, India, *P. molurus molurus* have been noted to prey upon *Varanus bengalensis* (Bengal Monitor), a monitor of similar stature to *I. iguana* (Bhupathy et al. 2014. Herpetol. J. 24:59–64). Additionally, *I. iguana* are known prey of other large invasive constrictor snakes, such as *Boa constrictor* in Aruba (Quick et al. 2005. J. Herpetol. 39:304–308). With these instances known, a record of *P. molurus bivittatus* consuming *I. iguana* is novel, though not necessarily unexpected.

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RHABDOPHIS SUBMINIATUS SUBMINIATUS (Red-necked Keelback Snake). DIET. Rhabdophis subminiatus subminiatus is a known predator of anurans, previously having been documented feeding on Duttaphrynus melanosticus (Mohammadi and Hill 2012. Trop. Nat. Hist. 12:123–125), Uperodon globulosus (Shihan and Kabir 2015. Zoos' Print 30:21), and Fejervarya sp. (Rahman et al. 2012. Herpetol. Rev. 43:350). Here we report the first documented predation of a Polypedates leucomystax (Fourlined Treefrog) by R. s. subminiatus.

The predation event occurred at 1010 h on 13 February 2018 within the Sakaerat Research Station, Nakhon Ratchasima Province, Thailand (14.5100°N, 101.9304°E; WGS 84). The adult R. s. subminiatus had already captured the adult P. leucomystax



Fig. 1. Rhabdophis subminiatus subminiatus envenomating Polypedates leucomystax.

and was biting the frog's lower jaw to envenomate it (Fig. 1). The frog was observed vocalizing and kicking intermittently during this time. Seven minutes later the frog's movement ceased, and it appeared to be dead. The snake then repositioned its grip and consumed the frog headfirst over the following 4 min, finishing at 1024 h.

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SIAGONODON BORRICHIANUS (Degerbøl's Blindsnake). PREDATION. Siagonodon borrichianus (Leptotyphlopidae) occurs in the southern Monte Desert and northwestern Patagonian regions of Argentina (Cei 1993. Reptiles del Centro, Centro Oeste y Sur de la Argentina. Herpetofauna de Zonas Áridas y Semiáridas. Monogr. IV Mus. Reg. Sci. Nat., Torino. 542 pp.; Fulvio-Pérez et al. 2010. Herpetol. Notes 3:65-67). Here we report a case of predation and the first record of S. borrichianus for Parque Provincial Ischigualasto, Departamento Valle Fértil, San Juan, Argentina (30.09779°S, 67.8336°W; SAD; 1331 m elev.). Two adult specimens of S. borrichianus were found in the fresh (<1 d old) regurgitate of a Pampas Fox (Lycalopex gymnocercus) along with two scorpions (Timogenes sp.), six cicadas (Cicadidae), bits of an unidentified lizard, numerous whole fruits/seeds of Chañar (Geoffroea decorticans), and blades of grass. Most of these food items had been chewed to varying degrees, but showed no obvious signs of chemical digestion, which facilitated their identification. Blindsnakes are infrequently encountered in nature because of their fossorial habits, but this species has also been reported in the diet other local vertebrates (e.g., toads; Quiroga et al. 2007. Herpetol. Rev. 38:208).

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THAMNOPHIS MARCIANUS (Checkered Gartersnake). DIET. Thamnophis marcianus feeds on a diverse group of prey, including earthworms, anurans, and fish (Ernst and Ernst 2003. Snakes of the United States and Canada. Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 668 pp.; Berkovitz and Shellis 2017. The Teeth of Non-Mammalian Vertebrates. Academic Press, London,



Fig. 1. Thamnophis marcianus ingesting a Fundulus zebrinus (Plains Killifish).

UK. 354 pp.). During a survey in the Natural Protected Area of Cañón de Santa Elena, on 14 October 2017, at the San Antonio Creek, Municipality of Manuel Benavides, Chihuahua, México (28.97561°N, 103.79011°W; WGS 84; 937 m elev.), at ca. 1000 h, a T. marcianus (ca. 300 mm SVL) was found with a Fundulus zebrinus (Plains Killifish) in its mouth (Fig. 1). The snake ingested the fish in ca. 5 min. Fundulus zebrinus is considered an exotic and invasive species in México. It is now widespread and abundant in the Trans-Pecos region and may have impacts on native species that are yet to be seen (Miyazono and Taylor 2013. Southwest. Nat. 58:163-169). The role of T. marcinaus as a predator of F. zebrinus warrants evaluation.

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THAMNOPHIS RADIX (Plains Gartersnake). SCAVENGING, Thamnophis radix exhibits a generalist feeding strategy and commonly preys upon amphibians and annelids, but occasionally also consumes fish, gastropods, small rodents, and carrion (Ernst and Ernst 2003. Snakes of the United States and Canada. Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C. 668 pp.; Tuttle and Gregory 2009. J. Herpetol. 43:65-73). Anurans often are a major food source for T. radix, particularly in northern portions of its distribution (Tuttle and Gregory 2009, op. cit.). Herein, we describe the first observation of T. radix scavenging a road-killed anuran

On 19 September 2017, we observed a T. radix scavenging a Lithobates blairi (Plains Leopard Frog) that had been killed by a motor vehicle on Highway 74 near Fairfield, Clay County, Nebraska, USA (Fig. 1; 40.4377°N, 98.1137°W; NAD83). The snake appeared injured as it thrashed around on the road, but we soon noticed it was attempting to dislodge a dead anuran adhered to the pavement. Previous observations of necrophagy by T. radix include accounts of unspecified carrion and consumption of a decomposed passerine (Platt et al. 2006. J. Kansas Herpetol. 20:10-19).

Snakes scavenging carrion from roadways has been documented fairly frequently (DeVault and Krochmal 2002. Herpetologica 58:429-436). Other observations of gartersnakes scavenging carrion from paved surfaces include a T. proximus (Western Ribbonsnake)

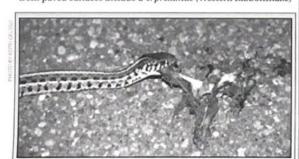


Fig. 1. Thamnophis radix (Plains Gartersnake) scavenging remnants of a road-killed Lithobates blairi (Plains Leopard Frog) in Clay County, Nebraska, USA.

consuming an unidentifiable toad (Resetarits Jr. 1983. Herpetol. Rev. 14:75) and a T. sirtalis (Common Gartersnake) scavenging a passerine (Sajdak and Sajdak 1999. Herpetol. Rev. 30:229). Our observation further illustrates the generalist feeding strategy and versatility of T. radix, although the time and energy required to consume such food resources appears to be disadvantageous and may place the snake at risk of road mortality.

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THAMNOPHIS SIRTALIS (Common Garter Snake). REPRODUC-TION. Many reports exist of mating behavior and strategies of T. sirtalis (Shine et al. 2005. Anim. Behav. 70:387-396), but fall mating has seldom been reported. On 4 October 2016, at ca. 1700 h, an aggregation of four Common Garter Snakes was observed in a large Burning Bush (Euonymus alatus) next to a small creek in Million Park off Tates Creek Rd in Richmond, Madison County, Kentucky, USA (37.74833°N, 84.30388°W; WGS 84). The cluster of snakes was 1.5-1.8 m off the ground and some individuals were exhibiting rhythmic body movements characteristic of mating behavior. Intertwining of the tails of a male and female was observed as the males were competing for the single female. One male positioned above the female was tongue flicking her on the back and appeared to have a hemipenis inserted (Fig. 1). Movements of observers caused the snakes to immediately begin disengaging from the mating ball. One male hanging down dropped directly into the small creek below (Fig. 1). The mating pair began to uncouple and the hemipenis became visible although the male continued to tongue flick the female and released a stream of saliva. Two of the snakes dropped to lower branches and then to the ground, while one snake remained in the tree for several minutes.

Arboreal mating balls in T. sirtalis may allow participants to more easily detect approaching predators as in this case. Most of the snakes dropped straight to the ground below allowing for a rapid escape from potential predators. This observation also confirms previous reports that this species may mate in late summer and early fall (Fitch 1980. Cat. Am. Amph. Rept. 270:1-4; Mitchell 1994. The Reptiles of Virginia. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C. 352 pp.). Fall mating in this species may occur more often than realized as small groups of snakes gather prior to hibernation.



Fig. 1. Mating ball consisting of four Thamnophis sirtalis. Mating appears to be occurring due to rhythmic motions of snakes. The pair at the left of photo are mating. The male is above the female and tongue-flicking on her back. Posterior ends of two snakes are intertwined with hemipenis inserted.