

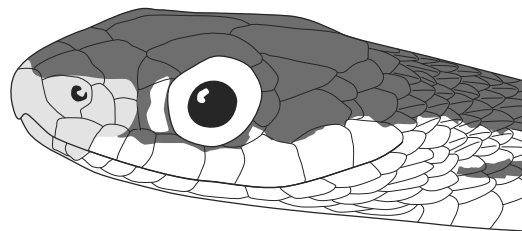
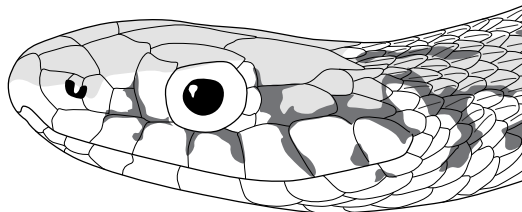
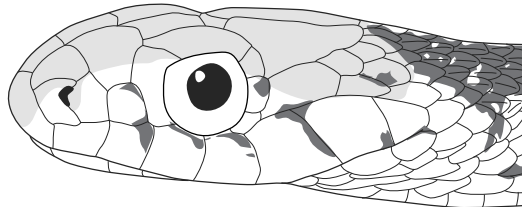
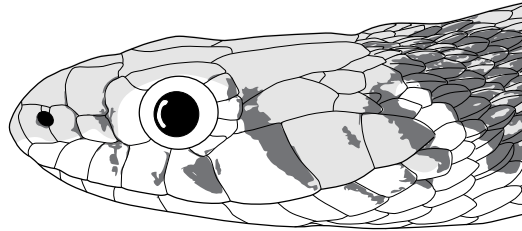
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Bronze Frog (*Lithobates clamitans*) Entanglement and Mortality in an Erosion Control Blanket

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Mesh products (e.g., wildlife exclusion netting and erosion control blankets) pose a risk to herpetofauna as they can become entangled, resulting in severe lacerations and/or mortality (Stuart et al. 2001, Walley et al. 2005a,b, Kapfer and Paloski 2011, Ebert et al. 2019). Snakes are the most reported taxa found entangled in mesh products (Montez and Saenz 2018, Ebert et al. 2019), however other animal taxa are also vulnerable to entanglement including turtles (Smith and Parker 2017) and lizards (Leatherman 1996).

On 11 May 2018, we encountered a dead *Lithobates clamitans* (SVL = 55.5 mm) that had become entangled in a polypropylene erosion control blanket comprised of two mesh layers (mesh size = 12.7 mm²) that was installed to mitigate against soil loss at a Texas Department of Transportation construction site in Houston County, Texas, USA (31°29'25.865" N, 95°13'31.353" W). The *L. clamitans* was found dead with the mesh entangled around its neck and appeared desiccated (Fig. 1). Prior studies have noted that erosion control blankets comprised of polypropylene mesh with fused corners are particularly effective at entangling animals (Kapfer and Paloski 2011, Ebert et al. 2019). Our observation contributes to the growing number of observations documenting wildlife entanglement in erosion control products.

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Figure 1. *Lithobates clamitans* entangled in erosion control blanket comprised of polypropylene mesh in Houston County, Texas, USA. Photo by Cory Adams.