

2004 to 2005. Females had a mean body temperature nearly two degrees higher than males across the active season ( $23.6 \pm 0.67^\circ\text{C}$  vs.  $21.9 \pm 0.63^\circ\text{C}$ , respectively). Gravid females of other snake species often have higher body temperatures than males, but non-gravid females also may have higher body temperatures that promote rapid growth and ultimately achieve earlier reproductive maturity or larger clutch sizes (Blouin-Demers and Weatherhead 2008. *Isr. J. Ecol. Evol.* 54:361–372). The mean body temperature of both sexes combined increased from March through July and then steadily declined through October when snakes entered hibernation (Fig. 1), which may be influenced by ambient temperatures at the field site. The mean body temperature of snakes was similar aboveground, regardless of whether snakes were exposed or under cover ( $24.4 \pm 0.86^\circ\text{C}$ ;  $23.5 \pm 0.79^\circ\text{C}$ , respectively), indicating that snakes can thermoregulate under cover while being concealed from predators. However, body temperature of snakes was several degrees lower when snakes were underground ( $20.4 \pm 0.55^\circ\text{C}$ ).

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**LEPTODEIRA MACULATA** (Southwestern Cat-eyed Snake).

**DIET.** *Leptodeira maculata* occurs in the Pacific coastal lowlands and adjacent slopes of the Sierra Madre Occidental, Mexico, from southern Sinaloa southeastward to the Rio Balsas, and inland in the Balsas Basin in Michoacán and Guerrero to elevations of ca. 2000 m (Duellman 1958. *Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist.* 114:1–151). Although little is known about the diet of this species, it is presumed to feed primarily on amphibians. Known prey taxa include *Bufo* (= *Incilius*) *mazatlanensis*, *Hypopachus oxyrrhinus*, and *Smilisca baudinii* (Duellman 1961. *Univ. Kansas Publ. Mus. Nat. Hist.* 15:1–148; Duellman and Trueb 1966. *Univ. Kansas Publ. Mus. Nat. Hist.* 17:281–375; Hardy and McDiarmid 1969. *Univ. Kansas Publ. Mus. Nat. Hist.* 18:39–252). Here we report a novel prey species for *Leptodeira maculata*, *Lithobates neovolcanica* (Transverse Volcanic Leopard Frog), a ranid frog that is found in the states of Jalisco, Guanajuato, and Michoacán, Mexico (Hillis and Frost 1985. *Occas. Pap. Nat. Hist. Mus. Univ. Kansas* 117:1–14).

On 16 November 2008, we discovered a *L. maculata* while conducting a survey of the herpetofauna in the largest mangrove forest in Mexico, “Marismas Nacionales,” in the state of Nayarit. While traveling between San Vicente-Unión de Corrientes, near “Los Espejos” ranch, Municipality of Tuxpan ( $21.9955556^\circ\text{N}$ ,  $105.4386111^\circ\text{W}$ , datum NAD27), a loud calling sound attracted our attention to a pond on the side of the road. Upon closer examination, we observed a *L. maculata* (total length ca. 70 cm) preying upon an adult *L. neovolcanica*. The animals were neither

disturbed, nor collected.

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**LEPTOTYPHLOPS GOUDOTII** (Black Blind Snake).

**UNUSUAL MICROHABITAT.** *Leptotyphlops goudotii* is a small fossorial snake distributed along the Mexican Pacific coastal and foothill regions of Colima, Michoacán, Guerrero, and Oaxaca, and slopes of the Gulf of Mexico from Tamaulipas and Veracruz, México, southward to Central America, Colombia and Venezuela (modified from McDiarmid et al. 1999. *Snake Species of the World*, a Taxonomic and Geographic Reference. Vol. 1. Herpetologists’ League, Washington, DC. 511 pp.). Here, we report a specimen of *L. goudotii* collected from a microhabitat that is atypical for the species.

On 20 April 2002, we collected a specimen of *L. goudotii* in Punta Delgada, Municipality of Alto Lucero de Gutierrez Barrios, Veracruz, México ( $19.5129^\circ\text{N}$ ,  $96.2732^\circ\text{W}$ , datum WGS 84; elev. 2 m). The location was a rocky area of beach by the seashore. We believe the specimen reached the area by means other than overland dispersal; probably it was washed up on shore, because the species is typically found in vegetative debris, or under logs or rocks (Pérez-Higareda et al. 2007. *Serpientes de la Región de Los Tuxtlas*, Veracruz, México: Guía de Identificación. Instituto de Biología, UNAM), but not by the seashore. The specimen was deposited in the herpetological collection of Centro de Investigaciones Biológicas, Universidad Autónoma del Estado de Hidalgo (CH CIB 0410).

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**LIOPHIS POECIOLOGYRUS** (Yellow-bellied Liophis). **DIET.**

*Liophis poecilogyrus* is distributed across the South American continent and preys on a wide variety of animals, including anurans, lizards, fishes, insects, and rodents (Michaud and Dixon 1989. *Herpetol. Rev.* 20:39–41). Here I report an observation of *L. poecilogyrus* feeding upon two additional anuran species, *Leptodactylus bufonius* and *Physalaemus biligonigerus*.

At 2315 h on 15 March 2009 and at 2155 h on 20 March 2009, two *L. poecilogyrus* (SVL = 604 mm; tail length = 94 mm; 75 g post prey removal and SVL = 536 mm; tail length = 98 mm; 93 g post prey removal, respectively) were captured in a temporary pool in the Isoceño community of Yapiroa, Provincia Cordillera, Departamento Santa Cruz, Bolivia ( $19.6000^\circ\text{S}$ ,  $62.5667^\circ\text{W}$ , datum



WGS84). The stomach contents of both snakes were checked by forced regurgitation. The snake captured on 15 March contained the posterior portion of a *L. bufonius* and the individual captured on 20 March had a *P. biligonigerus* in its stomach. Both snakes were released the night following their capture.

As with *L. poecilogyrus*, both *L. bufonius* and *P. biligonigerus* are associated with temporary pools in the Gran Chaco (Ceï 1980. *Monitore Zool. Ital. Monogr.* 2:1–609; pers. obs.), however this is the first record of either of these species in the diet of *L. poecilogyrus*.

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**LIOPHIS VANZOLINII** (NCN). **CLUTCH SIZE.** *Liophis vanzolinii*, a colubrid snake belonging to the *Liophis* "anomalus" complex (Nixon 1985. *Copeia* 1985:565–573), is distributed in the San Luis and Córdoba provinces of central-eastern Argentina. This species occurs in mid-elevation mountain ranges, where grassy and rocky streams are common. No reproductive data exist for *L. vanzolinii* (Ceï 1993. *Reptiles del Noroeste, Nordeste y Este de la Argentina. Herpetofauna de las Selvas Subtropicales, Puna y Pampas. Museo Regionale di Scienze Naturali Torino. Monografie XIV.* 944 pp.). Here we report the first data on clutch size for *L. vanzolinii*.

On 12 October 2008, we captured a gravid female (total length = 460 mm) *L. vanzolinii* at Estancia Las Verbenas, Valle de Pancanta (32.9°S, 66.1°W, datum WGS84; elev. 1650 m). The snake was maintained in a 120 x 60 x 40 cm terrarium with abundant leaves and gravel and it laid five eggs on 16 November 2008. The length and width of each egg were measured with Vernier calliper and the volume of each egg was calculated using the formula for volume of an ellipsoid sphere (Dunham 1983. *In Huey et al. [eds.], Lizard Ecology*, pp. 261–280. Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts). The eggs averaged 30.8 mm ( $s = 1.17$ ) in length; 14.7 mm. ( $s = 0.46$ ) in width; and 4025.4 mm<sup>3</sup> ( $s = 404.7$ ) in volume. Ceï (*op. cit.*) reports clutch sizes of 6–15 for *L. anomalus* and *L. elegantissimus*, similar to more northerly *Liophis* species. Thus, typical clutch size for *L. vanzolinii* may be small in comparison with the other species in this group.

We deposited the eggs in the herpetological collection of Universidad Nacional de San Juan. We thank Rodrigo Acosta and Sol Acosta for capturing and care of the specimen.

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**MASTIGODRYAS BIFOSSATUS** (Swamp Racer). **PREDATION AND ECTOPARASITES.** *Mastigodryas bifossatus* is a large colubrid snake that occurs predominantly in open areas of South America. This species is active during the day and eats mainly frogs, small mammals and lizards (Leite et al. 2007. *Rev. Bras. Zool.* 24:729–734). On 15 September 2007 at 1643 h, we observed a snake being harassed by two Crab-eating Foxes (*Cerdocyon thous*) at the edge of a temporary pond in the Pantanal biome, Fazenda Nhumirim, municipality of Corumbá, State of Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil (18.9927°S, 56.6477°W, datum WGS84). The foxes bit the snake one at a time, until one of them carried the snake to a forest near the pond. The other fox also ran toward the forest, but when approached, both foxes fled. Upon close examination, the snake was identified as *M. bifossatus* and was found to host 13 ticks, which we collected and preserved in 70% alcohol. The ticks were identified as *Amblyomma dissimile* (10 males and 3 females) and were deposited in the Laboratório de Parasitologia of the Instituto de Pesquisas Veterinárias Desidério Finamor, Rio Grande do Sul State, Brazil (NI 333). After collecting the ticks and photographing the snake we left the forest and the Crab-eating Foxes resumed feeding on the snake. Although Crab-eating Foxes are omnivorous, opportunistic hunters and commonly feed on small reptiles and other vertebrates (Gatti et al. 2006. *J. Trop. Ecol.* 22:227–230), this is the first record of them preying upon *Mastigodryas bifossatus*.

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**MICRURUS IBIBOBOCA** (Caatinga Coral Snake). **PREDATION.** Spiders are potential predators of a number of small vertebrates, including amphibians (Del-Grande and Moura 1997. *Herpetol. Rev.* 28:147; Menin et al. 2005. *Phyllomedusa* 4:39–47) and birds (Peloso and Sousa 2007. *Rev. Bras. Ornitol.* 15:461–463; Teixeira et al. 1991. *Ararajuba* 2:69–74). However, predation events are rarely observed in the wild or published (Martins et al. 1993. *Amphibia-Reptilia* 4:273–296), and we are unaware of any report of predation on *Micrurus ibiboboca* by spiders. Here we report on the attempted predation of a juvenile *M. ibiboboca* by a spider, *Pachistopelma rufonigrum* (Araneae, Theraphosidae).

The event was observed on 27 March 2009, in an area of Atlantic Forest within the Serra de Itabaiana National Park (10.7489°S, 37.3419°W, datum SAD-69) in the Brazilian state of Sergipe. The spider immobilized the snake in leaf litter on the forest floor for four minutes. Subsequently, the snake writhed vigorously and was eventually able to escape. A video and four photographs documenting the event were deposited in the