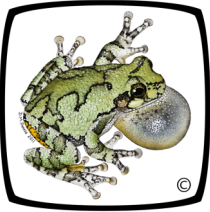


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LIOPHIS POECILOGYRUS (Yellow-bellied Liophis). DIET AND FORAGING BEHAVIOR. *Liophis poecilogyrus* is a colubrid snake widely distributed across South America. The species is often associated with mesic habitats, which is reflected in its diet that primarily consists of anurans and fish (Michaud and Dixon 1989. Herpetol. Rev. 20:39–42; Schalk 2010. Herpetol. Rev. 41:366–367). Although its diet has been well documented, other aspects of its natural history (e.g., behavior) are lacking. Here we report an observation on the foraging behavior of a *L. poecilogyrus* on tadpoles of *Leptodactylus bufonius* (Oven Frog).

On 30 December 2010, at 2300 h, we observed a male *L. poecilogyrus* (SVL = 411 mm; tail length = 81 mm; 32 g) foraging in a flooded ditch (approximately 10 m long and 0.5 m wide) in the Isoceño community of Yapiroa (19.60721°S, 62.57492°W; datum WGS 84), Province Cordillera, Department of Santa Cruz, Bolivia. While swimming in the ditch, the *L. poecilogyrus* had its head submerged and its mouth open as it chased and captured tadpoles of *L. bufonius*. When the snake captured a tadpole, it would push and hold the tadpole against the mud until it was able to move its mouth onto the head of the tadpole, after which it was able to swallow the individual. After approximately 30 sec underwater without a successful capture, the *L. poecilogyrus* would stop and raise its head above water and remain completely still. The snake would then plunge its head back underwater, swimming with its mouth agape in areas of the ditch where we observed a high abundance of swimming tadpoles. The snake continued foraging in this manner for an additional ten minutes before it left the ditch. This observation is consistent with other reports of head-first prey ingestion by *L. poecilogyrus* (De Souza et al. 2009. Biota Neotrop. 9:263–269) and also suggests that *L. poecilogyrus* primarily relies on tactile cues to detect and locate its prey while foraging in water.

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MICRURUS NIGROCINCTUS (Central American Coralsnake). DIET. Much remains to be learned about the natural history of many Central American snakes. *Micrurus nigrocinctus* is a relatively common terrestrial and semi-fossorial snake that ranges from southern Mexico to northern Colombia. The diet has been relatively well studied and is known to include caecilians, many lizards, and snakes of the genera *Anomalepis*, *Helmanthophis*, *Typhlops*, *Coniophanes*, *Geophis*, and *Ninia* (Savage 2002. The Amphibians and Reptiles of Costa Rica: a Herpetofauna Between Two Continents, Between Two Seas. Univ. Chicago Press, Illinois. 934 pp.) Solórzano (2004. Snakes of Costa Rica: Distribution, Taxonomy, and Natural History. Instituto Nacional de Biodiversidad, Santo Domingo de Heredia, Costa Rica. 791 pp.) reports on hundreds of individuals and adds the snake genera *Boa*, *Conophis*, *Dendrophidion*, *Drymobius*, *Enulius*, *Imantodes*, *Masticodryas*, *Rhadinaea*, *Tantilla*, and *Urotheca*.

On 1 February 2011, at 0755 h, an adult *M. nigrocinctus* (SVL = 46.2 cm; US National Museum Field Series #254130) was collected dead on the entrance road to El Copé, Coclé Province,

Republic of Panama, between the communities of Las Tibias and El Copé (8.62343°N, 80.57100°W, datum WGS84). The snake was split open and protruding from the body wall was a small black snake identified as *Liotyphlops albirostris* (US National Museum Field Series #254181). The anterior 14.5 cm of the snake was undigested. This is the first dietary record for *M. nigrocinctus* for the Republic of Panama and the first documentation of *L. albirostris* as a prey item for the species.

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NERODIA ERYTHROGASTER TRANSVERSA (Blotched Watersnake). ENDOPARASITES. Twelve species of trematodes and seven species of nematodes have been reported previously from *Nerodia erythrogaster* (Ernst and Ernst 2006. SSAR Herpetol. Circ. 34:1–86); however, to our knowledge, no pentastomids have been reported from this host. Here we report two new endoparasite records for *N. e. transversa*.

A single adult Blotched Watersnake was obtained from an unknown locale in Harris Co., Texas, USA, and housed at the Houston Zoological Gardens where it remained until it died on 1 June 1992. A midventral incision was made to expose the entire length of the digestive tract. A single larval nematode and four nymphal pentastomids were recovered from dermal cysts and cleared on glass slides with undiluted glycerol. These were subsequently identified as larval *Eustrongylides* sp. (Nematoda) and nymphs of *Porocephalus* sp. (Pentastomida). A voucher specimen of *Eustrongylides* sp. was deposited in the United States National Parasite Collection (USNPC), Beltsville, Maryland as (USNPC 104634). The *Porocephalus* sp. was retained in our personal collection.

Adults of *Porocephalus crotali* Humboldt (Porocephalida: Porocephalidae) have been reported from various crotalids (Forrester et al. 1970. J. Parasitol. 56:977; Nicoli 1963. Ann. Parasitol. Hum. Comp. 38:483–516; Self 1969. Exp. Parasitol. 24:63–119). The life history of this parasite may be similar to the life history of another pentastomid, *Kiricephalus coarctatus* (Diesing), where ophiophagous snakes are the definitive hosts and other snakes can serve as paratenic hosts (Self, *op. cit.*). However, a mammal could be an alternative host (Layne 1967. Bull. Wildl. Dis. Assoc. 3:105–109; Self 1972. Trans. Amer. Micros. Soc. 91:2–8). *Eustrongylides* sp. Jägerskiöld (Trichuridea: Dioctophymatidae) have been reported previously from the stomach, mesenteries, body wall musculature, coelomic cavity, and subcutaneous tissues of several free-ranging and captive snakes, including *Agkistrodon contortrix*, *Bothrops atrox*, *Coluber constrictor*, *Drymarchon couperi*, *Masticophis flagellum*, *Nerodia sipedon*, *Pituophis catenifer*, *P. melanoleucus*, *Thamnophis eques*, *T. sirtalis*, and an unknown species of python (Bursey 1986. J. Wildl. Dis. 22:527–532; Ernst and Ernst, *op. cit.*). *Nerodia erythrogaster transversa* represents a new host record for nymphs of *Porocephalus* sp. and larva of *Eustrongylides* sp.

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