

**OLIGODON ARNENSIS (Common Kukri Snake). DIET.** Snakes of the genus *Oligodon* are commonly known as Kukri snakes because of their knife-shaped hind teeth which are curved like a Nepalese knife (Kukri). The interesting morphology of their teeth is very effective for cutting open eggs, upon which these snakes commonly feed (Green et al. 2010. *Asian Herpetol. Res.* 1:1–21). Here we report an instance of *Oligodon arnensis* preying upon a lizard, the skink *Eutropis multifasciata*. On 27 February 2011, at 2030 h, we observed an *O. arnensis* in the process of subduing an *E. multifasciatus* in the botanical garden of Robertson College (23.16237°N, 79.9700°E, datum WGS 84; elev. 414 m) Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, India. The snake took approximately 25 min to completely swallow the skink, after which it retreated into a burrow on an elevated site nearby. To our knowledge, this is the first record of *E. multifasciatus* in the diet of *O. arnensis*.



FIG. 1. *Oligodon arnensis* preying upon a skink, *Eutropis multifasciata*, in Madhya Pradesh, India.

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**OXYBELIS AENEUS (Mexican Vinesnake). DIET.** *Oxybelis aeneus* is a common colubrid snake inhabiting a variety of habitats throughout Mexico, Central America, and northern South America (Savage 2002. *The Amphibians and Reptiles of Costa Rica: a Herpetofauna Between Two Continents, Between Two Seas.* Univ. Chicago Press, Chicago, Illinois. 934 pp.). This species is known to consume a wide array of prey, including lizards, amphibians, arboreal mammals, small rodents, small birds and fledglings, insects, and fish (Henderson 1982, *Amphibia-Reptilia* 3:71–80; Hetherington 2006, *Herpetol. Rev.* 37:94–95). Studies indicate that lizards, particularly anoles, are important prey for *O. aeneus* (Lee 1996. *Amphibians and Reptiles of the Yucatán Peninsula.* Cornell Univ. Press, Ithaca, New York. 500 pp.). On 26 May 2010, at 1300 h, on Playa Ventura, Guerrero, México (16.54097°N and 98.90697°W, datum NAD27; elev. ca. 48 m), one of us (AN-A) observed an *O. aeneus* in the process of constricting an adult *Sceloporus squamosus* which later was ingested head first (CAREM 0001 photographic voucher). This observation is the first record of *S. squamosus* in the diet of *O. aeneus*.

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**OXYRHOPUS FORMOSUS (False Coralsnake). ELEVATION.** *Oxyrhopus formosus* is a rare and poorly studied snake with a disjunct distribution in northwestern South America and in the Atlantic rainforest (Bailey 1986. *In* Peters and Orejas-Miranda [eds.], *Catalogue of Neotropical Squamata. Part I. Snakes*, pp. 229–235. *Bull. U.S. Natl. Mus.*). According to Bailey (*op. cit.*), *O. formosus* encompasses a complex of forms. In addition, several records identified as *O. formosus* in northern South America are, in fact, *O. occipitalis*, as pointed out by Lynch (2009. *Pap. Avul. Zool.* 49:319–337) and MacCulloch et al. (2009. *Pap. Avul. Zool.* 49:487–495). This taxonomic chaos makes it difficult to define geographic distribution limits of *O. formosus* sensu stricto, including the maximum elevations inhabited by the species. The holotype of *O. formosus* was collected in Mucuri, Bahia, Brazil, in the heart of Atlantic rainforest (Bailey, *op. cit.*). In this biome, the only information on the occurrence of the species in highlands is a photographic record from the Reserva Biológica de Duas Barras at an elevation between 550 and 738 m (Tonini et al. 2010. *Biota Neotrop.* 10:339–351). Here, we present the first elevational records of *O. formosus* in the mountains of the Atlantic rainforest biome.

In February 2010, an *O. formosus* was killed by farmers in a cocoa plantation on the farm Alto Bela Vista (14.61°S, 39.60°W, datum WGS84), ca. 780 m elev., in the Serra da Palha, municipality of Coaraci (Bahia), Brazil. A second individual was found at night (2200 h) on the edge of a stream in a forest (14.70°S, 39.60°W) at ca. 735 m elev. in the Serra do Corcovado, municipality of Almadina (Bahia) on 18 February 2011. These sites are about 10 km apart in Southern Bahian wet forest habitat. Voucher specimens (MZUESC 8485, 9250) are deposited in the Museu de Zoologia da Universidade Estadual de Santa Cruz, Ilhéus, Bahia, Brazil.

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**PANTHEROPHIS GLOYDI (Eastern Foxsnake). REPRODUCTION-CLUTCH SIZE.** On 1 July 2009 we captured a *P. gloydi* at Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge in Saginaw Co., Michigan, USA, as part of a radio telemetry joint project conducted by Central Michigan University and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The snake was a large gravid female (SVL = 1550 mm; total length = 1750 mm; 1654 g). The snake was radiographed after transmitter implant surgery, revealing a clutch of 34 eggs. To our knowledge, this represents a new maximum clutch size (previous maximum = 29 eggs, mean = 14.4 eggs) and near record length (previous maximum total length = 1791 mm; Conant and Collins 1998. *A Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians of Eastern and Central North America.* Houghton Mifflin, New York. 640 pp.). Evidence of vigorous reproduction in this species is of particular conservation interest, as this species is now uncommon or rare where it was once abundant (Harding 1997. *Amphibians and Reptiles of the Great Lakes Region.* Univ. Michigan Press, Ann Arbor, Michigan. 378 pp.).

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**PHILODRYAS OLFERSII. DIET.** The colubrid snake *Philodryas olfersii* is widely distributed in South America, occurring in Brazil, Peru, Bolivia, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Argentina (Peters and Orejas-Miranda 1970. Bull. U.S. Natl. Mus. 297:1–347). The species is known to have semi-arboreal habits and inhabit forested areas. Studies have documented a variety of diet items, including small mammals, birds, and anurans (Hartmann and Marques 2005. Amphibia-Reptilia 26:25–31; Leite et al. 2009. North-West. J. Zool. 5:53–60; Vitt 1980. Pap. Avul. Zool. 34:87–98).

On 19 December 2010 we collected a female *P. olfersii* (SVL = 890 mm; tail length = 47 mm; mass = 203 g) in restinga habitat (coastal sand dune vegetation habitat of the Atlantic Rainforest domain), municipality of São João da Barra, State of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (21.7374556°S, 41.0311306°W; datum WGS84). The

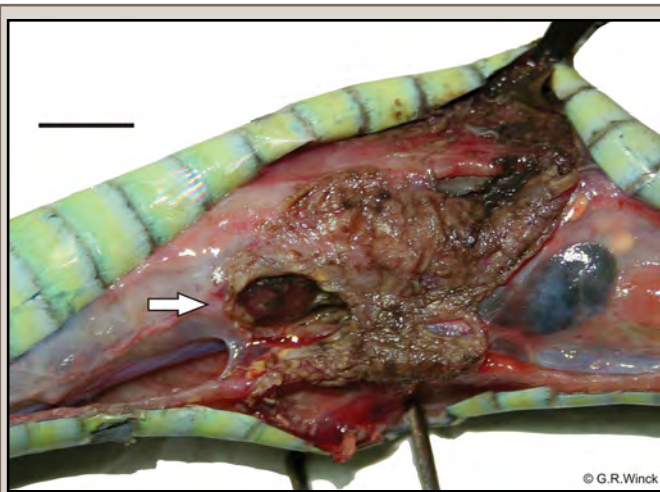


FIG. 1. Internal edema in the stomach of a *Philodryas olfersii* from the municipality of São João da Barra, state of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. White arrow shows the perforation of the stomach, associated to the ingestion of a venomous snake.



FIG. 2. *Philodryas olfersii* found deceased with a tropidurid lizard, *Tropidurus torquatus*, protruding from its mouth. The specimen was collected at a restinga habitat, municipality of São João da Barra, state of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

snake was unresponsive, and when dissected, was found to contain the digested remains of a colubrid snake, probably *Clelia* or *Boiruna*, based on head scales, in its stomach. We also observed a large edema and a perforation at the posterior portion of the stomach and necrosis of adjacent tissues, including rib musculature (Fig. 1.). In that portion of the stomach, we found the decomposed remains of a keeled-scaled viperid snake, likely *Bothropoides neuwiedi*, *B. jararaca*, or *Bothrops jararacussu*. We suspect that the tissue necrosis may have been caused by the venom of the ingested snake, either through a bite, or release of venom into an existing wound in the stomach of the *P. olfersii*.

On 21 December 2010 we collected another female *P. olfersii* (SVL = 434 mm, tail length = 200 mm, 91.1 g) in the same locality. The snake was dead with a partially ingested (head first) *Tropidurus torquatus* (SVL = 94 mm, tail length = 107 mm, 16.9 g; Fig. 2.) protruding from its mouth. Apparently, the snake failed in its attempt to ingest the lizard and was not able to regurgitate the large prey item. The inability of the snake to regurgitate may have been partially due to the lizard's scales, which are imbricated and oriented in posterior-anterior direction. Indeed, another case of a snake (*Bothropoides pradoi*) dying after attempting to ingest a large *T. torquatus* has been reported (Rocha et al. 1997. Herpetol. Rev. 28:153–154). Our observation represents an additional case of the not uncommon situation where a snake dies after being unable to regurgitate a large prey item. Voucher specimens of the snakes and the prey are housed at the Museu Nacional (MN-UFRJ), Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil (the first as MNRJ 20107, and the second as MNRJ 20109).

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**PHILODRYAS TRILINEATA (Argentine Mousehole Snake). DIET.** *Philodryas trilineata* is a large and robust colubrid snake endemic to Argentina (Leynaud and Bucher 1999. Misc. Publ. Acad. Nac. Sci. Córdoba 98:1–52). The diet of this species is known to include small vertebrates such as lizards, birds, and rodents (Ceï 1993. Reptiles del Noroeste, Nordeste y Este de la Argentina. Herpetofauna de Zonas Áridas y Semiáridas. Mus. Reg. Sci. Nat. Torino. Monografie IV. 945 pp.). Here we report an observation of *P. trilineata* feeding upon a novel prey species, *Upucerthia ruficauda* (Stright-billed Earthcreeper) fledglings.

On 14 December 2008, at 1411 h, in Quebrada Vallecito, Andes Mountains, Calingasta Department, San Juan Province, corresponding to pre-Andean limit of the occidental Monte Phytogeographic Region, Argentina (31.2°S, 69.6°W, datum WGS84; elev. 2543 m) we discovered an adult female *P. trilineata* (total length = 1070 mm) lying motionless beneath a shrub (*Larrea coneifolia*). As we approached, we noticed that the snake had a dark prey item in its mouth, pinned to the ground. The prey item was found to be a fledgling *U. ruficauda*. Dissection of the snake revealed another intact *U. ruficauda* fledgling in the stomach. Together, they two prey totaled 50% of the snake's mass.

The snake and prey were deposited in the Colección Herpetológica de la Universidad Nacional de San Juan (CH-UNSJ 3212)