



FIG. 1. Adult *Leptophis ahaetulla* preying upon an adult *Bogertia lutzae* in Pernambuco, Brazil.

**BOGERTIA LUTZAE. PREDATION BY LEPTOPHIS AHAETULLA.** *Bogertia lutzae* is a small bromelicolous lizard (Avila et al. 2010. J. Helminthol. 84:199–201) endemic to the northeast region of Brazil and is found in different ecosystems, mainly inhabiting sandbanks, Atlantic forest, and Caatinga (Rodrigues 1987. Arq. Zool. 1:105–230). *Leptophis ahaetulla* is a snake with a wide geographical distribution, occurring from southern Mexico to northern Uruguay (Albuquerque et al. 2007. J. Nat. Hist. 41:1237–1243; Carvalho et al. 2007. Biol. Geral Exper. 7:41–59). It is a primarily diurnal and semi-arboreal snake and is reported to occur over a wide range of habitats. The diet of *L. ahaetulla* consists predominantly of hylid frogs; however, there are also records of *Anolis* sp., *Thecadactylus rapicauda*, *Mastigodryas boddaerti*, and young birds in their diet (Albuquerque et al. 2007, *op. cit.*).

On 8 April 2013 at 1230 h we observed an adult *L. ahaetulla* preying upon an adult *B. lutzae*. This event occurred at Tapacurá Ecological Station, Pernambuco, Brazil (8.036°S, 35.199°W; datum WGS 84). The event was recorded at a forest edge. This is the first record of predation reported for *B. lutzae* by *L. ahaetulla*. The image of predation is available in the collection of images of Herpetology and Paleontology Laboratory of the Federal Rural University of Pernambuco - UFRPE, Recife, Pernambuco, Brazil.

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**CALLOPISTES MACULATUS (Chilean Iguana). SAUROPHAGY ON LIOLAEMUS.** The highly endemic reptile diversity of Chile is characterized by lower numbers of lizard species, of predominantly small body sizes (SVL <180 mm), compared to adjacent countries. Among these species, *Callopistes maculatus*, the largest known lizard (and only teiid) occurring in the country (SVL average:  $150.5 \pm 10.9$  mm, range [adult size estimated from the largest 2/3 of a 38-specimen sample]: 135–173 mm), and the *Liolaemus* evolutionary radiation, one of the richest amniote genera on Earth and the richest vertebrate genus in Chile (Pincheira-Donoso et al. 2008. Zootaxa 1800:1–85), stand out as some of the most prominent elements of the indigenous herpetofauna. All



FIG. 1. Saurophagy of *Callopistes maculatus* on *Liolaemus nitidus* in central Chile.

geographic areas where *C. maculatus* has been recorded are also inhabited by one or more species of *Liolaemus*. In these common areas, both groups of lizards are found in the same microhabitats, and overlap temporally (they are all diurnal). Surprisingly, however, ecological interactions among *Callopistes* and *Liolaemus* have only rarely been documented in the literature (e.g., see Jaksic 1998. Ecología de los Vertebrados Terrestres de Chile. Pont. Univ. Católica Press, Santiago. 262 pp.). Here, we report a predation event between *C. maculatus* and *L. nitidus*, one of the largest known *Liolaemus* species (SVL average: 92.5 mm, range: 85.4–107.5 mm; Pincheira-Donoso et al. 2008. BMC Evol. Biol. 8:68).

The feeding ecology of *Callopistes maculatus* is primarily insectivorous and secondarily carnivorous (including both heterospecific and conspecific small lizards, as well as birds and mammals), while other reports also describe consumption of plant material (Fuentes 1976. Ecology 57:3–17; Mellado 1982. Donana Acta Verteb. 9:372–373; Vidal and Ortiz 2003. Herpetol. Rev. 34:364–365). Within the lizard component of *C. maculatus* diet, only small *Liolaemus* species (*L. lemniscatus*, SVL average = 48.8 mm; *L. tenuis*, SVL average = 56.9 mm) have been observed as prey.

Near the city of Ovalle (30.39861°S, 71.22889°W), Coquimbo Region of Chile, we observed an adult male *Callopistes maculatus* actively preying on an adult *Liolaemus nitidus* (Fig. 1). The observation took place on 10 January 2009, at 1310 h, and the recorded air temperature was 27°C. The feeding behavior of the *C. maculatus* consisted of multiple attacks to the body of the *L. nitidus*, which at the time of our initial observation was lying dead ~50 cm from a shrub (*Fabiana imbricata*). The *C. maculatus* was using this shrub as an intermittent shelter (possibly as a result of our presence) while periodically returning to the prey item to continue its attacks. Every attack to the lifeless *L. nitidus* lasted only a few seconds, and given the adult size of the prey, the predatory lizard showed signs of difficulty in handling it. Within 72 sec. of observation, the *C. maculatus* eventually moved the body of *L. nitidus* out of sight into the vegetation. Although it remains unknown whether the predator managed to eat the captured prey item, our report shows that *C. maculatus* will target other lizard species with only slightly smaller body sizes. In addition, from the ecological perspective of the prey, our observation reveals that the largest species of the genus *Liolaemus* are not only preyed upon by considerably larger vertebrates, such as

mammalian carnivores, birds of prey, or snakes, but also by other lizards. A recent study (Pincheira-Donoso 2012. Anim. Biol. 62:277–287) showed that saurophagy within *Liolaemus* mostly involves adults feeding on heterospecific and conspecific (i.e., cannibalism) newborns and juveniles. Collectively, our report challenges the generality for predators of *Liolaemus* lizards. This note provides a record of the largest known prey consumed by *C. maculatus*, while expanding the diversity of reptiles this large species feeds on.

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**CNEMIDOPHORUS OCELLIFER (Spix's Whiptail). PREDATION.** Predation events are difficult to record in the natural environment (Shepard 2007. Herpetologica 63:193–202). Such reports are relevant because they present ecological interactions within ecosystem dynamics, thus providing key information concerning diet and natural life history of the species (Morin 1983. Ecol. Monogr. 53:119–138).

In natural environments, lizards serve as potential prey for arthropods (Bocchiglieri and Mendonça 2009. Herpetol. Rev. 40:438–438) and vertebrates such as other lizards (Faria and Araujo 2004. Braz. J. Biol. 64:775–786), snakes (Silva and Araújo 2008. Ecologia dos Lagartos Brasileiros. Technical Books, Rio de Janeiro. 271 pp.), and birds (Gogliath et al. 2010. Herpetol. Bull. 114:36–38). In this note, we describe a predation event of a terrestrial lizard, *Cnemidophorus ocellifer*, by a Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) on a sand dune beach complex in northeastern Brazil.

On 19 September 2012 at 1530 h during fieldwork at Mosqueiro's Beach, Aracaju, Brazil (11.0885°S, 37.1166°W) we observed a predation attack by a Great Egret on a *C. ocellifer*. The egret was observed walking slowly along the dunes, and suddenly changed its stance, beginning to walk faster with the neck stretched toward and facing upright. It then stopped close



FIG. 1. Great Egret predation upon *Cnemidophorus ocellifer* at Mosqueiro's Beach, Aracaju, Brazil.

to some herbaceous vegetation and remained still with the neck held in an S-shape, the typical posture of this species during stalking behavior. A few seconds later the egret attacked and captured the lizard with its bill (Fig. 1).

We thank Bolista FAPITEC for funding and support of our research.

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**COPESGLOSSUM AFF. NIGROPUNCTATUM (Amazonian Skink). PREDATION.** The Amazonian Pygmy-Owl (*Glaucidium hardyi*) typically feeds on arthropods and is considered insectivorous, although it may less commonly predate on small vertebrates such as birds, mammals, amphibians and reptiles (Sick 1997. Ornithologia Brasileira. Editora Nova Fronteira, Rio de Janeiro. 912 pp.). At 1000 h on 1 November 2012, while I was birdwatching on “ZF-2 Tower,” at “Reserva Cuieiras,” property of Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia, 80 km from Manaus, Amazonas, Brazil, I saw a *G. hardyi* perched near the tower. I approached quietly and took some photos. After a few minutes, the owl flew to a 30 m-high platform on the tower where it remained for a few seconds, as if in pursuit of prey. Upon returning to its perch, the owl was holding a *Copesglossum aff. nigropunctata* in its talons. The skink tried to escape, but the owl bit the dorsal region of the neck, killing it, and flew away with the prey. This is the first record of predation on a *C. aff. nigropunctata* by an Amazonian Pygmy-owl, and a rare record of vertebrate predation by this species.

I am grateful to Teresa C. S. de Avila-Pires of Emilio Goeldi Paraense Museum for her help with the identification of the lizard, Fernanda Dragan for English revision, CNPq for the PhD scholarship (#145304/2009-4), and Atend Ltda for research funding.

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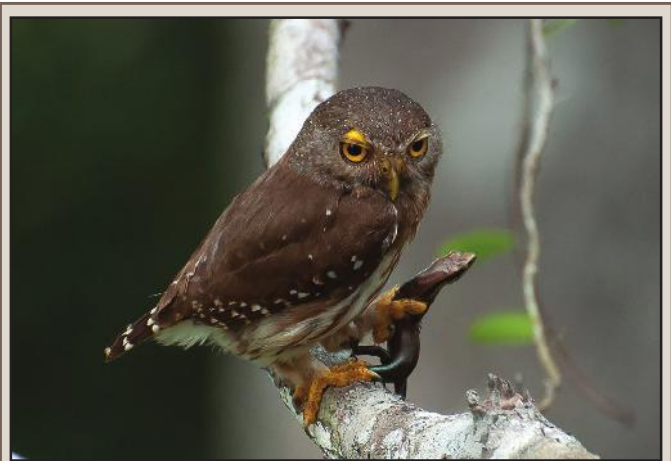


FIG. 1. An Amazonian Pygmy-Owl (*Glaucidium hardyi*) holding an Amazonian Skink (*Copesglossum aff. nigropunctata*).