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FIG. 1. Hatchling *Terrapene ornata luteola* feeding on Thread-leaf Groundsel (*Senecio flaccidus* var. *douglasii*) petals on 6 October 2008.

the nest was again excavated, revealing two hatchlings buried in the bottom of the nest cavity. The nest was carefully re-buried and covered. On 27 June 2003, the area received its first summer rainfall, and the nest was visited, but no emergence noted. On 29 June the site was visited once again, and 2 hatchlings (SCL = 38.1, 36.3 mm) were noted on the surface, under the cage (MSB 78220, 78221). The cavity was exhumed, revealing that out of a clutch of three eggs, two had been viable. These young remained within the nest cavity for at least 266 days. To my knowledge, this is the first documented case of hatchling *T. o. luteola* overwintering in the nest. Additionally, hatchling emergence may vary based on geography or local rainfall patterns.

Observations on captive ‘backyard’ turtles in Albuquerque, New Mexico (35.08482°N, 106.61151°W, WGS84; 1578 m elev.) also indicate that hatchlings overwinter within the nest cavity and emerge the following summer. However, on 6 October 2008, I observed a hatchling *T. o. luteola* (SCL = 38.4 mm, 12.9 g) active on the surface and feeding on Thread-leaf Groundsel petals (*Senecio flaccidus* var. *douglasii*) in a central New Mexico population on the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge (34.401643°N, 106.662123°W, WGS84; 1567 m elev.). Not only do these observations suggest plasticity for hatchling *T. o. luteola* emergence, but this feeding record adds to the paucity of information available describing hatchling *T. ornata* feeding ecology (Fig. 1).

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CROCODYLIA – CROCODILIANS

PALEOSUCHUS TRIGONATUS (Schneider’s Smooth-fronted Caiman). **PREY.** Despite being a widespread species, the natural history of the Schneider’s Smooth-fronted Caiman (*Paleosuchus trigonatus*) is little known due to its habitat preferences and cryptic behavior (Magnusson and Lima 1991. *J. Herpetol.* 25:41–48). Its main habitat comprises the closed-canopy streams and rivers of forested regions through the Amazon and Orinoco drainage basins and the fluvial coastal systems of the Guyanas (Magnusson and Campos 2010. *Paleosuchus trigonatus*. *Crocs.* CSG:43–45). Like all crocodylians, *P. trigonatus* is a generalist predator consuming a wide variety of prey, however, its diet includes a



FIG. 1. Aftermath of predation attempt by *Paleosuchus trigonatus* on the porcupine *Coendou bicolor*.

higher proportion of terrestrial vertebrates than other Amazonian alligatorids (Magnusson et al. 1987. *J. Herpetol.* 21:85–95).

On 5 February 2011 at 1030 h, we witnessed a unusual predation attempt by a *Paleosuchus trigonatus* (ca. 150 cm total length) on a porcupine (*Coendou bicolor*) at Playas de Cuyabeno (0.31428°S, 75.96146°W, 213 m elev.), Reserva de Producción Faunística Cuyabeno, Sucumbíos Province, Ecuador. The locality lies within tropical rainforest and the observation was made during the dry season, which extends from December to March in this region. We could not determine if the predation attempt was successful, but it was evident that the caiman attacked the porcupine, as its head and jaws were covered with quills (Fig. 1). When captured, the caiman appeared stressed, as the porcupine’s quills (up to 5 cm long) had penetrated 0.5 cm into the flesh of caiman. The caiman was covered by leaf litter under a large, overhanging horizontal root, at a small salt lick with footprints of several mammals evident, suggesting that the caiman attacked the porcupine nearby. Magnusson et al. (1987, *op. cit.*) reported that adult *P. trigonatus* consumed mammals such as rats (*Oryzomys* sp. and *Proechimys* sp.), agouti (*Dasyprocta* sp.), monkey (undetermined), a marsupial (*Metachirus nudicaudatus*), armadillo (*Dasyplus novemcinctus*), and porcupine (*Coendou* sp.) in Central Amazonia, Brazil. Therefore, our observation supports predation on porcupines, and suggests that adult *P. trigonatus* forage near salt licks.

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LIZARDS — SQUAMATA

ACANTHODACTYLUS BOSKIANUS (Bosk’s Fringe-fingered Lizard). **BIFURCATION.** *Acanthodactylus boskianus* is a diurnal, ground dwelling, medium to large-sized lacertid lizard. It is one of the most widespread species of the genus ranging from West Sahara, through all of North Africa (including the Sahel) to the Arabian Peninsula and east to SW Iran northwards to Southern Turkey (Sindaco and Jeremcenko 2008. *The Reptiles of the Western*

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FIG. 1. Adult *Acanthodactylus boskianus asper* with bifurcated tail.

Palaearctic. Edizioni Belvedere, Latina, Italy. 579 pp.). *Acanthodactylus boskianus* usually occurs in arid and desert ecosystems and is an ecologically plastic species which occurs on variety of habitats, typically inhabits coarse substrates with moderate vegetation. This species is often the most conspicuous and abundant lizard in arid and desert regions in its distribution range.

On 12 May 2011 we captured three adult individuals of the subspecies *A. b. asper* in an open area with thorny bushes in Wadi Paran, southern Israel (30.337°N, 34.946°E). Lacertids are known to readily autotomize their tails (Fitch 2003. *J. Herpetol.* 37:395–399; Pafilis et al. 2009. *Evolution* 63:1262–1278). In order to collect tissue samples from these specimens we cut the tips of their tails, and kept the animals alive for breeding at the I. Meier Segals Garden for Zoological Research at Tel-Aviv University (collection was done under INPA permit # 38074). The specimens were kept in plastic terraria, and their tails regenerated. In one female (Fig. 1; 66 mm SVL; 6.6 g), the regenerated tail had bifurcated 4 cm posterior from the cloaca, with both tail tips at even lengths of 50 mm. This individual is the only *Acanthodactylus* specimen (out of 46 individuals we kept, belonging to six species) that did not flee in the presence of humans. We did not observe bifurcated tails in *Acanthodactylus* specimens in the field, nor did we among the >1000 specimens (in 9 species, including 391 *A. boskianus* specimens) kept at the Tel-Aviv University Zoological Museum.

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AMPHISBAENA ALBA (Giant Worm Lizard). PREDATION. *Amphisbaena alba* is a species widely distributed in South America (Gans 2005. *Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist.* 289:1–130). In Brazil is found in different ecosystems, where it is primarily fossorial (Moura et al. 2011. *In Herpetologia do Estado de Pernambuco.* 440 pp.; Vitt et al. 2008. *In Guia de Lagartos da Reserva Adolpho Ducke - Amazônia Central.* 175 pp.). This species can be an important prey item for some bird species, being reported in the diet of the hawk *Rupornis magnirostris* in an area of Atlantic Forest in southern region of Brazil (Santos and Rosado 2009. *Revista em Agronegócios e Meio Ambiente* 2:421–430). The White-naped Jay (*Cyanocorax cyanopogon*) is a bird endemic to Brazil, belonging to the family Corvidae. It is a generalist and has the habit of forming conspecific aggregations (Sick 1997. *Ornitologia Brasileira.* Editora Nova Fronteira, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. 912 pp.).



FIG. 1. Predation of *Amphisbaena alba* by *Cyanocorax cyanopogon* in the Floresta Nacional do Araripe, Ceará, Brazil. Record: CHP-UFRPE N°2800.

On 20 August 2012 at 0740 h, at the edge of a forested area located in Floresta Nacional do Araripe (7.3838°S, 39.3544°W; WGS 84), Ceará, Brazil, we observed a group of five individuals of *C. cyanopogon* preying on an individual of *A. alba* (Fig. 1). The prey was on the ground when five jays approached, emitting intense vocalizations. Two individuals of the group attacked the amphisbaenian, pecking it in the head and tail with their beaks. A third individual then joined them and also began to peck the prey. When the *A. alba* ceased resistance, it was taken into the forest, where other individuals of the group approached and began to feed on the prey. This is the first record of predation reported for *A. alba* by *C. cyanopogon* in the northeastern region of Brazil. The images of predation were filed in the Collection of Herpetological and Paleoherpetological of Federal Rural University of Pernambuco - UFRPE, Recife, Pernambuco, Brazil.

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ANOLIS CAROLINENSIS (Green Anole). PREDATION. A wide variety of predators have been documented for Green Anoles, including birds (e.g., Arndt 1975. *Florida Sci.* 58:249–251; Palmer and Braswell 1995. *Reptiles of North Carolina.* Univ. of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill. 412 pp.), frogs (Hoffman and Johnson 2008. *Herpetol. Rev.* 39:339), snakes (Wharton 1969. *Bull. Florida St. Mus.* 14:227–272), other lizards, including conspecifics (Campbell and Gerber 1996. *Herpetol. Rev.* 27:106; Gerber and Echternacht 2000. *Oecologia* 124:599–607; Netting 1940. *Copeia* 1940:266), and wolf spiders (Corey 1988. *J. Arachnol.* 16:392–393). Orb web spiders usually catch and consume invertebrates, and are known to occasionally eat small vertebrates such as small snakes (Burt 1949. *Herpetologica* 5:127; Groves 1978. *Bull. Maryland Herpetol. Soc.* 14:44–46) and the lizards *Anolis porcatius* and *A. sagrei* in the Caribbean (Armas 2001. *Revista Ibérica de Aracnologia* 3:87–88; Armas and Alayón 1987. *Poeyana* 344:1–18). Here we describe the first successful predation of an *A. carolinensis* by an orb weaving spider.