Fig. 1. *Plestiodon fasciatus* in mouth and gullet of an Alabama Bass (*Micropterus henshalli*).

approximately 14 cm from snout to tail tip (Fig. 1). The skink, while completely intact, was dead, most likely from drowning. The head of the skink protruded from the mouth of the bass (Fig. 1), but the mid and lower body and tail of the skink were in the fish's gullet (JBM, pers. obs.).

Freshwater bass in the genus *Micropterus* are considered opportunistic predators that feed primarily on fish, crayfish, and a wide variety of aquatic insects. Observations of the consumption of lizards by bass have never been published in the scientific literature to our knowledge. A number of studies have examined the natural dietary habits of the Spotted Bass, *Micropterus punctulatus* (Applegate et al. 1967. Proc. Ann. Conf. SE Assoc. Game Fish Comm. 20:469–482; Smith and Page 1969. Trans. Amer. Fish. Soc. 98:647–651; Scott and Angermeiere 1998. N. Amer. J. Fish. Manag.18:221–235), the species most closely related to *M. henshalli.* These studies indicate that the primary prey types of adult fish include various species of fish, crayfish, and aquatic insects. Juvenile Spotted Bass (<7.5 cm total length) consume smaller prey comprised primarily of aquatic insects and zooplankton (Smith and Page 1969, *op. cit.*). Adult Smallmouth Bass, *M. dolomieu*, consume fish and aquatic insects and to a lesser degree crayfish (Robertson and Winemiller 2001. Southwest. Nat. 46:216–221). Adult Largemouth Bass primarily consume fish and crayfish with aquatic insects less common in the diet (Wheeler and Allen 2003. Trans. Amer. Fish. Soc. 132:438–449; Rayborn et al. 2004. Ecol. Freshwater Fish 13:276–284). Long and Fisher (2000. J. Freshwater Ecol. 15:465–474) examined diets of all three of these bass species in an Oklahoma Reservoir and found that adult Largemouth Bass fed primarily on fish, while adult Smallmouth and Spotted Bass consumed mostly crayfish and insects. None of the dietary studies cited above report the inclusion of any lizards among prey items.

There are some interesting natural history considerations pertinent to our observation. One question is: how was the skink captured by the bass? One possibility is that the skink fell off a branch or log into the river and was consumed by the bass. The other possibility is that the bass observed the movements of the skink on a branch or log near the air-water interface and leapt out of the water to capture the skink. This latter possibility is supported by the pattern of habitat utilization of this species of bass. *Micropterus henshalli* is similar to *M. punctulatus* in that it occurs in primarily riverine habitats and prefers river banks where it exploits woody debris and bank vegetation as cover (Scott and Angermeier 1998, *op. cit.*). This would place it in close proximity to invertebrates and vertebrates that perch on branches, sticks, roots, and tree trunks.

The present study adds further evidence that the putative chemical defense of *P. fasciatus* failed to protect the skink from predation from another group of vertebrates. Clearly the tail did not inhibit consumption by *Micropterus henshalli*, nor did the capacity of the skink to autotomize its tail as a predator diversion tactic. In all likelihood, the skink was ambushed by the bass and loss of the tail would have come too late to serve as an effective diversion as it might have against more visual predators such as birds and small mammals.

JAMES B. McCLINTOCK (e-mail: mcclinto@uab.edu), **ROBERT A. ANGUS** (e-mail: raangus@uab.edu), and **KEN R. MARION** (e-mail: kmarion@uab.edu), Department of Biology, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, Alabama 35294, USA.

PODARCIS MURALIS **(Common Wall Lizard). COMMUNAL NESTING.** Ovoposition strategies vary among species and even within the same species. One of these strategies is communal nesting. The "constraint" (nests with optimal conditions for laying eggs are scarce) and the "adaptation" (a fitness benefit due to egg aggregation) are two reasons why female lizards lay their eggs in communal nests (Rader and Shine 2007. J. Anim. Ecol. 76:881–887). In the Iberian Peninsula, communal nesting has occasionally been reported in the species *Psammodrommus algirus*, *Podarcis bocagei*, *Iberolacerta aranica*, and *Zootoca vivipara* (Braña 1996. Oikos. 75:511–523; Galán 2009. Bol. Asoc. Herpetol. Españ. 20:2–34; Pleguezuelos et al. 2004. Amphibia-Reptilia 25:333–336).

In July 2013 we observed a communal nesting of *Podarcis muralis* with five clutches in a pathway close to Torla, Huesca, Aragón, Spain (42.64207°N, 0.074998°W; WGS84). The total number of eggs were 10. Nine of the eggs were intact and one was empty, suggesting that this had already hatched. They were under a stone of approximately 30 cm length, 25 cm width, and 25 cm depth. The stone was surrounded by grass and piled pieces of limestone, but nearby we could see plant species like *Pinus uncinata* and *Echinospartum horridum*. Eggs laid under large stones may benefit from stable environmental conditions for incubation. Climatic conditions in 2013 were particularly cold in the north of Spain. Normally, mating and egg-laying in *P. muralis* occurs from April to July, but in 2013 some high altitude regions remained with snow until late July. In addition, people frequently traverse the area where the communal nesting was observed. The unfavorable environmental conditions and the settlement of a nest site beside such a well traversed path may suggest that the choice of location was due to the lack of optimal oviposition sites, rather than the benefits of aggregation. Thus, the nest place was probably chosen because it offered protection against inclement weather and predators due to the stone size.

Mountain species are more vulnerable to processes associated to climate change (Sinervo et al. 2010. Science 328: 894–899). Monasterio et al. 2013 (Zoology 291:136–145) hypothesized that climate change may affect oviposition in some lizard species, as it may be in this case, inducing communal nesting. However, sorting out among constraint hypotheses requires experimental approaches. On the other hand, Gosá and Bergerandi 1994 (Munibe 46:109–189) mentioned communal nesting of *P. muralis* in Navarra, Spain. To our knowledge, this is the first description of the number of eggs and location of a communal nest in *P. muralis.* Communal nesting seems to be a common behavior in lacertids, observational data on communal egg-laying are scarce in general and, in particular, for this species.

We are grateful to A. Lozano for her comments in the manuscript.

ROBERTO GARCÍA-ROA, Department of Evolutionary Ecology, National Museum of Natural Science – Spanish Resarch Council (MNCN-CSIC), José Gutiérrez Abascal, 2, 28006, Madrid, Spain (e-mail: r.garcia-roa@mncn.csic.es); **MAIDER IGLESIAS**, Department of Evolutionary Ecology, National Museum of Natural Science – Spanish Resarch Council (MNCN-CSIC), José Gutiérrez Abascal, 2, 28006, Madrid, Spain; Departament of Herpetology, Aranzadi Society of Sciencies, Alto de Zorroaga 11, Donostia-San Sebastián, Spain (e-mail: miglesias@aranzadi-zientziak.org); **ALBERTO GOSÁ** (e-mail: agosa@aranzadi-zientziak.org) and **CARLOS CABIDO** (e-mail: ccabido@aranzadi-zientziak.org), Departament of Herpetology, Aranzadi Society of Sciencies, Alto de Zorroaga 11, Donostia-San Sebastián, Spain.

***PTENOPUS KOCHI* (Koch's Barking Gecko). DIURNAL ACTIVITY.** Geckos in the genus *Ptenopus* are considered to be crepuscular and nocturnal lizards that normally ambush prey from their burrow entrances, although in some regions of southern Africa *Ptenopus garrulus* (Common Barking Gecko) has been reported to become diurnally active on rainy or overcast summer afternoons when their termite prey are swarming (Huey and Pianka 1981. Ecology 62:991–999). Little information is available on the Namib Desert endemic *P. kochi*. Here we document the first reported cases of diurnal activity in this species. On 26 June 2014 between 1030–1312 h we encountered five juvenile *P. kochi* active on gravelly-sand substrates in an interdune region south of the Kuiseb River at Gobabeb Research and Training Centre, Namibia (23.57903°S, 15.03838°E; WGS84), 411 m elev. In the same area we documented an additional juvenile *P. kochi* active on the surface at 1144 h on 5 July 2014. This individual was 24 mm SVL, weighed 0.50 g, and had an 18 mm-long original tail. Although we did not weigh or measure the first five geckos, they all appeared similar in size to the measured gecko. Both mornings had started out cloudy and cool, but five out of the six geckos noted here were active in the full sun. The clouds had cleared by 1112 h on 26 June and by 0806 h on 5 July. Mean cloacal temperature within seconds of capture was 28.7 ± 1.1°C (range 25.4–30.0°C; N = 4), the air temperature 10 mm above the surface where geckos were observed active averaged 25.6 ± 0.8°C (range 24.0–28.0°C; N = 5), and the surface temperature where geckos were located averaged 30.7 ± 1.0°C (range 27.0–32.9°C; N = 5). In three of the cases, no burrows were visible near the active geckos. In one case the gecko was active ca. 20 cm away from the closest burrow. Two of the observed geckos were located ca.1 m from the closest burrow, and when startled one of these individuals immediately fled straight to this burrow. It is possible that these geckos were actively foraging during daylight, outside of their burrows, but we did not observe any swarming termites active near any of the geckos, and we did not observe any larger juvenile or adult *P. kochi* diurnally active. Instead, we hypothesize that these were all post-hatchling geckos that may have been dispersing away from the burrows that they hatched in. Hatchlings of the closely related and slightly smaller *P. garrulus* are ca. 22 mm SVL (Hibbitts et al. 2005. J. Herpetol. 39:509–515), which is a close approximation to the sizes we observed, supporting the notion that the *P. kochi* seen here had recently hatched. These observations contribute to the dearth of information available on the ecology of *P. kochi*, and prompt further questions about the dispersal of juvenile geckos away from their natal burrows, and whether or not they construct their own burrows or use pre-existing burrows.

We thank Gillian Maggs-Kölling and Theo Wassenaaar of Namibia's Gobabeb Research and Training Centre as well as the Brain Function Research Group at the University of the Witwatersrand for support and the Namibian Ministry of Environment and Tourism for permission to work in the Namib-Naukluft National Park.

IAN W. MURRAY (e-mail: Ian.Murray@wits.ac.za), **HILARY M. LEASE**, Brain Function Research Group, School of Physiology, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand, Parktown, 2193, Johannesburg, South Africa.

***SALVATOR MERIANAE* (Tegu). DIET.** *Salvator merianae* is a teiid lizard widely distributed in Argentina, Uruguay, Bolivia, and Brazil. The diet of this lizard is mainly composed of fruits, flowers, invertebrates (such as spiders, crustaceans, and insects), small vertebrates, eggs, and decomposing animals (Kiefer and Sazima 2002. Amphibia Reptilia 23:105–108). Records of predation on vertebrates consist of other lizards, such as *Tropidurus hispidus* (Silva et al. 2013. Herpetol. Notes 6:51–53), *T. torquatus* (Arruda et al. 2007. VIII Congr. Ecol. Brasil. 1–2), and the bird *Turdus leucomelas* (Santos and Vaz-Silva 2012. Herpetol. Brasil. 1[1]:35–36).

We observed two cases of predation by *S. merianae* in different domains. The first observation was made during the collection of lizards in an area of Caatinga, in Sítios Novos (9.80500°S, 37.68444°W), Municipality of Poço Redondo, Sergipe State, Brazil. On 10 January 2012, an individual was seen preying on an anuran, *Rhinella granulosa* (SVL = 58.83 mm). The second record is from the Atlantic Forest, in the Refúgio de Vida Silvestre Mata do Junco (10.53972°S, 37.06194°W), Municipality of Capela, Sergipe, State. On 25 January 2013, a young individual (SVL = 22.27 cm; 320 g) was collected and regurgitated a frog, *Leptodactylus natalensis* (SVL = 15.32 mm), and two orthopterans with volumes of 0.0014 and 0.0004 mm^3, respectively (ellipsoid formula). The voucher specimens of *R. granulosa* and *L. natalensis* and the second individual of *S. merianae* were preserved in alcohol and deposited in the collection of Laboratório de Biologia e Ecologia de Vertebrados of the Universidade Federal de Sergipe (LABEVA 862; LABEVA 1129 and LABEVL 408, respectively). This is the first record of *Rhinella granulosa* and *Leptodactylus natalensis* being included in the diet of *Salvator merianae*, and it can help in understanding the trophic food webs of these groups.

RONY PETERSON SANTOS ALMEIDA (e-mail: rony_peterson@hotmail.com), **JEFFERSON OLIVEIRA LIMA** (e-mail: jeffersonbio17@hotmail.com), and **EDUARDO JOSÉ DOS REIS DIAS** (e-mail: ejrdias@hotmail.com), Laboratório de Biologia e Ecologia de Vertebrados (LABEV), Departamento de Biociências, Campus Professor Alberto Carvalho, Universidade Federal de Sergipe, CEP 49500-000, Itabaiana, Sergipe, Brazil.

***SCELOPORUS CYANOSTICTUS* (Yarrow's Blue-spotted Spiny Lizard). FIELD AND PREFERRED BODY TEMPERATURE.** Monitoring thermal requirements and thermoregulatory behavior of reptiles is crucial for understanding effects of global warming on species (Sinervo et al. 2010. Science 328:894–899). *Sceloporus cyanostictus* is an endangered species endemic to Mexico (www.iucnredlist.org; 9 Oct 2014), with a geographically restricted distribution and little variation in habitats occupied (Gadsden et al. 2006. Bull. Chicago Herpetol. Soc. 41:2–9; Lemos-Espinal and Smith 2007. Amphibians and Reptiles of the State of Coahuila, Mexico. UNAM-CONABIO. 550 pp.). There have been reports detailing the field body temperature of *Sceloporus* lizards (e.g., Andrews et al. 1997. Copeia 1997:108–115), although data on T_p (preferred temperature) within this genus are not usually reported (Mathies