

traspecific oophagy is probably a form of parental care. Although several hypotheses have been advanced to explain causes of this behavior in oviparous reptiles, for viviparous reptiles there is no explanation.

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GALLOTIA ATLANTICA (Atlantic Lizard). **PREDATION.** Shrikes are probably not the most important predators of lizards, but they have developed an innovative way of killing their prey—by impaling them. During the breeding season in Poland, *Lanius collurio* (red-backed shrike) have been observed impaling *Lacerta agilis* (Fiala 1986. Ziva. 34:158). We report here on another instance of the same technique observed on Timanfaya (Lanzarote, Canary Islands). On 24 March 1998, eight individuals of *Gallotia atlantica* were found impaled on the leaves of a palm tree. The bird responsible for this larder was *Lanius excubitor koenigi* (great grey shrike). The lizards were positioned just above the ground and ca. 20 m from a nest containing four young shrikes. Six of the lizards were almost completely eaten, with only the skulls remaining. Of the other two carcasses, one was completely dry, while the other was fresh with the eyes, tail, and part of the abdomen already eaten. These last two individuals had been skewered lengthwise—cloaca to head—on the palm leaves. The size of the lizards (by comparison with preserved specimens) corresponded to that of adults (ca. 70–80 mm SVL). Thus predation on *G. atlantica* by shrikes during the latter's breeding season could be an important factor in the population dynamics of both species. Future field studies are needed to determine whether the grey shrike also impales lizards at other times of the year.

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HEMIDACTYLUS BROOKI (Spotted House Gecko). **COMMUNAL BREEDING.** *Hemidactylus brooki* is a common gecko inhabiting households in Dharwad, South India (15°17'N, 75°3'E). It is also found in Sri Lanka, Burma, Indonesia, and the Malaysian and Philippine Islands. In Dharwad, *H. brooki* reproduces from October until June (Shanbhag et al. 1998. J. Herpetol. 32:566–572), producing two eggs per clutch. The eggs are usually deposited on a horizontal surface, hidden from view. On 14 May 1997 I observed 16 *H. brooki* eggs adhering to a wall behind a framed photograph measuring 75 cm x 50 cm. The 16 eggs were deposited in an area of 15 cm x 20 cm, suggesting communal breeding. One group of four were clumped together, eight were deposited in pairs, and the remaining four were attached singly.

Communal deposition of eggs has been reported in the Australian gecko, *Oedura lesueri* (Bustard 1967. Herpetologica 23:276–

284), and in *Hemidactylus turcicus* (Flower 1933. Proc. Zool. Soc. London: 735–851., R. K. Vaughan, pers. comm.).

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LEPIDODACTYLUS LUGUBRIS (Mourning Gecko). **NECTIVORY and DAYTIME ACTIVITY.** With few exceptions, geckos are nocturnal insectivores. A few species occasionally feed on natural or man-made sweet semi-liquids such as nectar or honey. *Lepidodactylus lugubris* is one such species (Greer 1989. The Biology and Evolution of Australian Lizards. Surrey Beatty & Sons, Hong Kong. 264 pp). McCoid and Hensley (1993. Herpetol. Rev. 24:87–88) suggested *L. lugubris* will regularly change activity patterns to feed on such resources. Here we report on several instances of such behavior and provide statistical support suggesting these were indeed systematic, rather than incidental. We made our observations on the island of Guam. They include chance sightings, when the behavior occurred during the day and involved a large number of individuals, and a small-scale systematic study.

McCoid and Hensley (1993, *op. cit.*) reported that consumption of sweet scraps in households is not unusual. We have also received incidental reports and witnessed additional cases of house-dwelling mourning geckos feeding on jam and sugar crystals. In households where they are not molested, geckos may descend to lick dinner plates clean after a meal (R. D. Anderson, pers. comm.) or feed on ripe fruit left on the kitchen table (C. S. Lobban, pers. comm.). Several people reported encountering them in discarded cans of sweetened drinks (D. S. Vice, pers. comm.; G. J. Wiles, pers. comm.). However, such events are apparently not limited to sweet foods. In one of our households they will sometimes drink milk from meal bowls. Our incidental observations also include sightings of geckos licking what appears to be nectar from the flowers of ornamental orchids and papaya trees (*Carica papaya*).

Our systematic observations were mostly made on the grounds of the Guam National Wildlife Refuge. Like McCoid and Hensley (1993, *op. cit.*), we repeatedly observed *L. lugubris* attracted to the blooms of coconut trees (*Cocos nucifera*). Geckos would lick closed flowers, the drops of clear sweet liquid emanating from them, and the scars where flowers had previously been, as well as open flowers. At times, more than ten individuals of various sizes and color morphs would be engaged in this behavior on a single inflorescence, though on most occasions we only saw a single gecko. On many cases, most recently during September 1998, this behavior occurred during mid-day, both on cloudy and on clear days. The lizards would retreat during the sunniest periods, but seemed nearly oblivious to the presence of observers. They would occasionally engage in agonistic behavior, with individuals apparently fighting over access to the resource. During early September 1998, nearly every flowering tree we could find had at least one *L. lugubris* feeding on nectar during the day. To quantify this behavior we carefully searched 46 short coconut trees. Most either had flowers (N = 9) or had wilted flower stalks, often with developing fruit on them (N = 28). Of trees with flowers, seven (78%) had active geckos during the day, whereas we observed a gecko on only one (3%) of those without flowers. This difference was highly significant ($p < 0.001$, Fisher's exact test). In two cases we observed an adult *Hemidactylus frenatus* near an inflorescence occupied by a *L. lugubris*. Neither engaged in aggressive behavior, and we saw no indication of a change in *L. lugubris* behavior as a result of this presence.

Mourning geckos would occasionally feed on the many insects, mostly ants and flies, that were also attracted to the flowers. Most