

nest predation by *L. splendida*, although there are several records of Willow Flycatcher nest predation by *L. californiae* (Smith et al. 2002. Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program Technical Report 191. Arizona Game and Fish Dept., Phoenix, Arizona).

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LEPTODEIRA ANNULATA (Banded cat-eyed Snake). DIET. *Leptodeira annulata* has a wide distribution in Mexico, Central, and South America (Peters and Orejas-Miranda 1986. Catalogue of the Neotropical Squamata: Part I, Snakes. Revised ed. Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C. 347 pp.). This snake has arboreal habits, but can also be found on the ground and in water (Martins and Oliveira 1998. Herpetol. Nat. Hist. 6:78–150; Ávila and Morais 2007. Herpetol. Rev. 38:278–280). Its diet is composed mainly of small frogs (Vitt 1996. Herpetol. Nat. Hist. 4:69–76). Here we report a field observation of attempted predation upon a large-bodied anuran by an adult *L. annulata* in the Brazilian Caatinga.

At 1810 h on 25 October 2009 in the Fazenda Tanques, municipality of Santa Maria, state of Rio Grande do Norte, Brazil (05.87°S, 35.70°W, datum WGS84; elev. 137 m), we found an adult female *L. annulata* (SVL = 602 mm) in herbaceous vegetation on the border of a pond, biting the right hind limb of an adult *Lepidodactylus* cf. *macrosternum*. The anuran continuously emitted open-mouthed distress calls (Fig. 1), and tried to escape from the snake. The *L. annulata* held the frog for approximately 15 min while anchoring its body by wrapping its caudal region around vegetation, but eventually the frog was able to escape.

Although we recognize that our presence may have disturbed the snake, the failed predation attempt may have occurred due to the large size and great vitality of the frog. Despite the batrachophagic habits of *L. annulata*, ingestion of large anurans does not seem to be common in this species. In an analysis of 66 specimens of *L. annulata* from the Brazilian Amazon, Vitt (*op. cit.*) reported only small frogs, with mean prey length (29.9 ± 3.9 mm) and width (11.0 ± 1.4 mm) much smaller than the *L. cf. macrosternum* we observed (estimated body length = 80 mm; body width = 39 mm).

The *L. annulata* (CHBEZ 2631) was vouchered in the herpetological collection of the Universidade Federal do Rio Grande



FIG. 1. Attempted predation by *Leptodeira annulata* on *Leptodactylus* cf. *macrosternum* in the Brazilian Caatinga.

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MONTATHERIS HINDII (Kenya Montane Viper). DIET. *Montatheris hindii* is a small Kenyan viperid endemic to high altitude moorlands of the Aberdare Mountains and Mt. Kenya. Little is known about the natural history of this species although its diet consists of lizards and frogs, while small rodents have been suggested as prey (Spawls et al. 2004. A Field Guide to the Reptiles of East Africa. A & C Publishers Ltd., London. 543 pp.).

On 4 October 2011, during a small mammal survey in the Eastern Province of Kenya, Meru South District, Mt. Kenya National Reserve (00.16392°N, 37.44714°E, datum WGS 84; elev. 2980 m) an adult male *M. hindii* (total length = 299 mm; 16 g) was captured in a pitfall trap line. The pitfall line was situated in a transitional region between the upper montane forest zone and the Ericaceous zone along the eastern slope of Mt. Kenya. Vegetation in the immediate vicinity of the pitfall included tussock-forming grasses and herbaceous plants 0.5–1 m in height and this alpine grassland was bordered by a grove of *Hagenia abyssinica* trees ca. 100 m distant. While in the bucket trap, the snake had killed and half-consumed a *Sylvisorex granti mundus* (5.0 g; Fig. 1). The *M. hindii* was deposited at the National Museum of Kenya, Mammalogy Section (TCD 3374) and the *S. granti mundus* is a voucher at the Field Museum of Natural History - Chicago (FMNH 216941). This is the first record of *S. granti mundus* in the diet of *M. hindii*. However, because the event occurred in a pitfall trap, the importance of this species as prey for *M. hindii* remains unknown.

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FIG. 1. A *Montatheris hindii* consuming a *Sylvisorex granti mundus* in a pitfall trap in Mt. Kenya National Reserve, Kenya.