

the lizard something was still trying to pull it back into the burrow but finally we were able to pull the complete animal out with a large wound across its chest and belly. We dug into the burrow and found a *P. trigonatus* (SVL 240 mm, TL 278 mm, weigh 70 g) coiled within, which we collected after the snake attempted to flee. The specimens of *L. olongasta* (LJAMM 10699) and *P. trigonatus* (LJAMM 11087) were deposited in the herpetological collection Luciano Javier Avila Mariana Morando of the Centro Nacional Patagónico-CONICET, Puerto Madryn, Argentina.

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LIOLAEMUS PETROPHILUS (NCN). **PREDATION.** Although birds are often acknowledged as feeding on lizards, direct observations of predation are relatively rare under natural conditions. *Liolaemus petrophilus* is a medium-sized lizard inhabiting the Patagonian steppe in association with rocky outcrop habitats in central Rio Negro and Chubut provinces, Argentina (Avila et al. 2006. Check List 2:66–69). Despite its abundance in its natural habitats, only recent information regarding its avian predators is available (Perez and Avila 2005. Herpetol. Rev. 36:451–452). On 13 January 2009 at ca. 1900 h, in the course of a herpetological survey carried out on the edge of a volcanic plateau, within a small valley known as Cañada La Leona (42.4084°S, 68.2615°W; datum: WGS84; elev. 1062 m), north of the town known as Gan Gan, Telsen Department, Chubut Province, CHFP observed the remains (tail with spinal axis) of a lizard *Liolaemus petrophilus* (SVL was estimated in 84 mm and a TL of 226 mm) below an American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) nest. The nest was on a small cliff and contained fledglings, with an adult also present. A few minutes following the initial observation, another adult kestrel arrived with an adult *L. petrophilus* in its talons. The lizard was approximately of the same size as the former dead specimen, suggesting that during summer the kestrel is an active predator of this lizard. *Falco sparverius* is widely distributed in Patagonia and is an active diurnal predator (Narosky and Yzurieta 2003. Guía para la Identificación de las Aves de Argentina y Uruguay. A.O. P., Vázquez Mazzini, Buenos Aires, Argentina. 346 pp.). It is a generalist predator known to eat lizards in summer (Figueroa Rojas and Corales Stappung 2004. Hornero 19:53–60). This is the first record of predation on *L. petrophilus* by *F. sparverius*.

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MABUYA NIGROPUNCTATA (NCN). **PREDATION.** *Mabuya nigropunctata* occurs throughout Amazonian rain forest, living

along forest edges, open patches and on the margins of terra firme forest (Avila-Pires 1995. Lizards of Brazilian Amazonia. Zool. Verh. Leiden 299; Vitt et al. 1996. J. Trop. Ecol. 13:199–220). The species is heliothermic and is often observed basking (Avila-Pires 1995, *op. cit.*). Hoogmoed (1973. Biogeographica 4:1–419) reported a *M. nigropunctata* preyed upon by a pygmy-owl (*Glaucidium* sp.), and Cunha and Nascimento (1994. Bol. Mus. Paraense E. Goeldi 9:1–191) also encountered an individual in the stomach of the snake *Siphlophis cervinus*. Herein, we report an observation of Pearl Kite (*Gampsonyx swainsonii*) predation on *M. nigropunctata*.

On 27 April 2008 at ca. 1200 h, while conducting an ornithological survey as a part of the Environmental Impact Study of the Foz do Apicás Hydroelectric Power Plant in Mato Grosso State, Brazil, we collected an adult *G. swainsonii* with a pressure gun from a grassland area of Paranaíta, Mato Grosso (57.1092°W, 9.4155°S, datum: SAD69; elev. 701 m); dissection revealed a tail of one adult *M. nigropunctata* in the stomach. The grasslands are surrounded by rain forest dominated by Babaçu Palms (*Orbignya oleifera*).

Gampsonyx swainsonii, the smallest raptor in Brazil, inhabits open areas and forest edges (Antas 2005. Pantanal Guia de Aves: Espécies da Reserva Particular do Patrimônio Natural do SESC - Pantanal. Editora Serviço Social do Comércio, Rio de Janeiro-RJ, Brazil. 225 pp.). Previous studies of *G. swainsonii* diet report insects, birds, and unidentified lizards (Sick 2001. Ornitologia Brasileira. Editora Nova Fronteira. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. 862 pp.).

The *G. swainsonii* specimen (JB 396 - collection license 10698-1/IBAMA) (length: 24.1 cm) and its stomach contents were deposited in Laboratório de Ornitologia, Campus of Cuiabá, Universidade Federal de Mato Grosso (UFMT).

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MICRABLEPHARUS MAXIMILIANI (Blue-tailed Lizard). **PREDATION.** *Micrablepharus maximiliani* is a widely distributed heliothermic lizard, occurring from Brazilian Amazonia to Paraguay (Ávila - Pires 1995. Zool. Verh. Leid. 299:1–706; Peters and Donoso-Barros 1986. Bull. Uni. Stat. Nat. Mus. 297 pp.; Rodrigues 1990. Simp. Ecos. Cost. Sud. Bras. pp. 404–410; Vanzolini 1988. Proc. Work. Neotropical Distribution Patterns, pp. 317–342; Vanzolini et al. 1980. Acad. Bras. Ciên. 161 pp.). It occurs in coastal areas and the edges of forested areas where it can also be found in the isolated forest range (known locally as ‘Brejos de Altitude’) in the semi-arid Caatingas (Vanzolini 1974. Pap. Avul. Zool. 28[4]:61–90; Freire 1996. Rev. Bras. Zool. 13[4]:903–921; Rodrigues, *op. cit.*; Borges-Nojosa and Caramaschi 2003. Ecol. Cons. Caat. V. 01, pp. 489–540). It is commonly observed in leaf

litter, herbaceous vegetation and can be found in association with eusocial insects like termites and ants (Vitt 1991. *J. Herpetol.* 25:79–90; Mesquita et al. 2006. *Copeia* 2006(3):460–471; Sousa and Freire, *in press*, *S. Amer. J. Herpetol.*). Theraphosid spiders are part of the infraorder Mygalomorphae which includes a great diversity of spiders that occupy a variety of habitats and are common in Brazil, where they are known as “aranhas caranguejeiras” (‘crab spiders’) because of their large size (Brescovit et al. 2002. *In Adis* (org.), *Amazonian Arachnida and Myriapoda*, pp. 303–343). The large size of these spiders allow them to consume large invertebrates and small vertebrates (Vitt 2000. *Herpetol. Monogr.* 14:388–400; Brescovit et al., *op. cit.*).

Few studies are available regarding prey-predator relationship of these spiders within Brazilian communities, especially involving reptiles, due to the time required for sampling and the elusive habits of many reptiles species (Rocha and Vrcibradic 1998. *Ciência e Cultura* 50[5]:364–368). Here, we report on an observation of predation on *M. maximiliani* by a theraphosid spider.

At 0930 h on 1 July 2009, in the Parque Estadual Mata da Pipa (PEMP), municipality of Tibau do Sul, State of Rio Grande do Norte, Brazil (6.24861°S, 35.05750°W, datum: WGS84; elev. 63 m), PAGES saw a medium-sized spider (~6 cm from the anterior tip of the head to the posterior end of the abdomen) in bare sand of open forest with a specimen of *M. maximiliani* grasped in its chelicerae. The lizard had no head, no front legs and no chest, but its color pattern and the absence of records of other species of this genus in the State served for a positive identification. The specimen of *M. maximiliani* could not be used for scientific collection, due to its high degree of deterioration caused by spider’s digestive enzymes.

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NOROPS CARPENTERI (NCN). **ENDOPARASITES.** Nematodes are known as endoparasites of several species of anoles (e.g., Bursley et al. 2003. *J. Parasitol.* 89:118–123; Dobson et al. 1992. *Oecologia* 91:110–117; Goldberg and Bursley 2004. *Herpetol. Rev.* 35:269). Herein, I report a case of nematode infestation in *Norops carpenteri*. In the Reserva Biológica Hitoy Cerere (Costa Rica, Limón Province, 9.667°N, 83.033°W, ca. 250 m elev.) on 25 August 2005, I encountered a male *N. carpenteri* on the forest floor. The anole was hardly moving and at closer examination I noticed that it was heavily infested with nematodes, apparently ascaridids. The body loop of one nematode protruded from the anole’s cloaca and while I carefully handled the anole, several nematodes emerged (Fig. 1). This is the first report on endoparasites in *Norops carpenteri*.



FIG. 1. Nematodes protruding from the cloaca of *Norops carpenteri*.

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PHRYNOSOMA CORNUTUM (Texas Horned Lizard). **NESTING BEHAVIOR.** Few detailed accounts of nesting activities of the Texas Horned Lizard (*Phrynosoma cornutum*) have been published that span the early digging of a nest through oviposition and subsequent completion of an undetectable nest site. Nesting behaviors have been reported by Sherbrooke (2002. *Herpetol. Rev.* 33:206–208) and Allison and Cepeda (2009. *Southwest. Nat.* 54[2]:211–213). This note describes previously unreported behaviors during a nesting event.

At 1020 h on 25 May 2008, we observed a female (87 mm SVL; 52 g on 22 May) Texas Horned Lizard (*Phrynosoma cornutum*) excavating a nest under extremely hot, dry, windy conditions in Randall County, Texas, USA (ca. 34.98°N, 101.93°W, datum: NAD27; elev. 1080 m). Temperatures recorded for 25 and 26 May reached 32 and 33°C, respectively. At 1655 h the lizard (now 31.4 g) had laid eggs and was 10 m upslope from the site of excavation, resting in the shade of a nearby fence, but in clear view of, and intently watching, the nest site. This is the only observation we have made of a nesting female leaving the immediate area of the nest after ovipositing and before backfilling the nest, leaving the eggs exposed, and attribute it to the need for thermoregulation (lowering her body temperature). The lizard returned to, and resumed work at, the nest ca. 1855 h.

At ca. 2100 h, the lizard was working inside the nest with a large mound of loose soil outside the cavity when a violent thunderstorm approached. The storm, with 80 km/h winds (gusting to 112 km/h), hail, and driving rain, passed quickly and resulted in pea to marble sized hail, but minimal precipitation. When we checked the nest immediately after the worst of the storm had passed, the lizard and eggs were concealed within the excavation by a mound of loose soil (with the mounded soil having the appearance of a pocket gopher [Geomyidae] mound). The mound was 4–5 cm in height and 10–12 cm in diameter. However, at 0700 h the next morning, the entrance tunnel was exposed with the lizard asleep inside the