

FIG. 1. An adult *Drymarchon corais* crushing the body and tail of an *Oxyrhopus melanogenys* in Peru.



FIG. 2. An adult *Drymarchon corais* subduing and consuming a sub-adult *Clelia clelia* in Peru.

1.5 m total length [TL]) subduing and consuming an *Oxyrhopus melanogenys* (ca. 100 cm TL) in a small open clearing 3 m from the Las Piedras River (12.05419°S, 69.52763°W; WGS 84; Fig. 1). The *D. corais* was found with its tail wrapped around a grass clump and the upper portion of the *O. melanogenys* tail was firmly gripped in its jaws. Similarly, the head and neck of the *O. melanogenys* was tightly coiled around other vegetation. The *D. corais* was attempting to use the tail-anchor and a pulling motion to dislocate the *O. melanogenys*, which had the coils of its tail around the head and neck of the *D. corais* and had defecated. The *D. corais* began chewing the body anteriorly towards the head. The chewing visibly resulted in numerous abrasions, including the removal of scales, as well as a crushed appearance. Periodically the *D. corais* would reattempt to dislodge the *O. melanogenys*, and subsequently repeat the process of crushing the body. After 20 min, the *O. melanogenys* released its hold, due to the damage sustained on the torso or from exhaustion. The *D. corais* pulled the snake several meters from the initial location, consumed the still living prey in less than a minute, and left the clearing.

The second observation occurred at ca. 1430 h on 19 October 2019 at the Las Piedras Amazon Centre (12.07231°S, 69.49392°W; WGS 84). An adult *D. corais* was observed subduing and consuming a subadult *Clelia clelia* (Fig. 2). Both individuals were almost equal in total length (ca. 100 cm). When first encountered, the *D. corais* had swallowed the head and a small amount of the body of the *C. clelia*. The *C. clelia* was still alive, and it continuously thrashed around its body. The *D. corais* repeatedly rolled in a manner like the “death roll” maneuver which is

commonly observed in crocodylians attempting to subdue prey. The *D. corais* gradually dragged the *C. clelia* under a thick layer of leaf litter. Approximately 20 min after the observation began, neither snake could be seen, although some movement could still be seen in the leaves under which the snakes were obscured.

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PATRICK S. CHAMPAGNE, Acadia University, 15 University Ave, Wolfville, NS B4P 2R6, Nova Scotia, Canada (e-mail: patrickchampagne@acadiau.ca); **PAUL ROSOLIE, JR.**, Libertad 646, Puerto Maldonado (e-mail: paul@junglekeepers.org); **CARTER J. PAYNE** (e-mail: carterjamespayne@gmail.com).

ELAPHE DIONE (Steppe Ratsnake). ABNORMAL PATTERN.

Elaphe dione is a widely distributed generalist colubrid, found from western Europe through Russia into east Asia, including China and Korea (Kang and Yoon 1975. Illustrated Encyclopedia of Fauna and Flora of Korea, Vol. 17 Amphibia-Reptilia. The Korean Ministry of Education Press, Seoul. 161 pp.). The total body length of adults range from 70 to 90 cm, rarely reaching 120 cm (Schulz 1996. A Monograph of the Colubrid Snakes of the Genus *Elaphe* Fitzinger. Koeltz Scientific Books. 439 pp.). Generally, the background color of the dorsal side is brown or yellow with small black spots, and that of the ventral side is yellowish white with scattered blackish-brown spots on a portion of the abdominal scales (Lee et al. 2011. Ecological Guide Book of Herpetofauna in Korea. NIER press, Incheo, South Korea. 186 pp.). On 25 September 2020, we collected a female *E. dione* (66.5 cm SVL, 91.5 g) with an abnormal ventral pattern at Hallasan Mountain (33.36967°N, 126.62497°E; WGS 84; 638 m elev.) located in Seogwipo City, Jeju-do, South Korea (Fig. 1A, B). Although it had the same background color and pattern of the dorsal side as other individuals, the ventral pattern had dark-brown irregular trapezoidal spots scattered throughout the ventral scales, which was similar to the ventral pattern of Frog-eating Ratsnake (*Oocatochus rufodorsatus*; Fig. 1C, D). Even though this subject showed differences in the ventral pattern, all other external morphological features were consistent with *E. dione*. This is the first case reporting an abnormal ventral pattern of *E. dione*.

SANG-CHEOL LEE, Department of Biology, Incheon National Uni-



FIG. 1. The dorsal view (A) and ventral view (B, C) of *Elaphe dione* from in Jeju Island, South Korea, and a ventral view of *Oocatochus rufodorsatus* (D) from in South Korea.

versity, Incheon 22012, Republic of Korea (e-mail: 3881103@hanmail.net); **JAE-HWA SUH** and **MIN SEOCK DO**, Animal Resources Division, National Institute of Biological Resources Incheon 22689, Republic of Korea (e-mail: viper@korea.kr).

ERYTHROLAMPRUS MIMUS (Mimic False Coralsnake). DIET.

Erythrolamprus mimus is a medium sized colubrid snake found in rainforests from Honduras to western Ecuador (Savage 2002. The Amphibians and Reptiles of Costa Rica: a Herpetofauna between Two Continents, between Two Seas. University of Chicago Press, Chicago, Illinois. 934 pp.). It is notable for being a coral-snake mimic, in particular of *Micrurus dumerilii* (Campbell and Lamar 2004. The Venomous Reptiles of the Western Hemisphere. Comstock Publishing Associates, Cornell University Press, Ithaca, New York. 976 pp.). It has been reported to feed on frogs, lizards, and snakes (Ray and Santana 2012. Herpetol. Rev. 43:344; Kalki and Schramer 2018. Herpetol. Rev. 49:753). Here, I report the observation of this species preying on the colubrid snake *Ninia teresitae*. This snake can be identified by being the only snake in the region with gray background color, a white nuchal band, keeled scales and two prefrontal scales (Angarita-Sierra and Arteaga 2021. In Arteaga et al. [eds]. Reptiles of Ecuador: Life in the Middle of the World; www.tropicalherping.com). On 19 July 2019, at ca. 1100 h, at the Chocó Lodge in Canandé Reserve, northwestern Ecuador (0.526°N, 79.213°W; WGS 84), I spotted an individual of *E. mimus* crossing the path. I carefully moved it off the path, and it immediately proceeded to regurgitate a specimen of the snake *Ninia teresitae* (Fig. 1), after which the snake went on its way. The prey was regurgitated headfirst, suggesting that it had been swallowed tail-first.

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DAMIEN ESQUERRÉ, Division of Ecology and Evolution, Research



FIG. 1. *Erythrolamprus mimus* regurgitating *Ninia teresitae* in Ecuador.

School of Biology, The Australian National University, Canberra 0200, ACT, Australia; e-mail: esquerré.damien@gmail.com.

HELICOPS ANGULATUS (Brown-banded Watersnake). DIET. *Helicops angulatus* is a widely distributed semi-aquatic snake from South America (Nogueira et al. 2019. South Am. J. Herpetol. 14:1–274). This species primarily inhabits lentic waters in open and forested areas and is tolerant of anthropogenic habitat degradation (Dixon and Soini 1986. The Reptiles of the Upper Amazon Basin, Iquitos Region, Peru. Milwaukee Public Museum, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. 154 pp; Martins and Oliveira 1998. Herpetol. Nat. Hist. 6:78–150). *Helicops angulatus* feeds on fish, amphibians, reptiles, some invertebrates, and carrion (Acosta-Ortiz et al. 2021. In Arteaga et al. [eds.], Reptiles of Ecuador: Life in the Middle of the World. www.tropicalherping.com). Predation

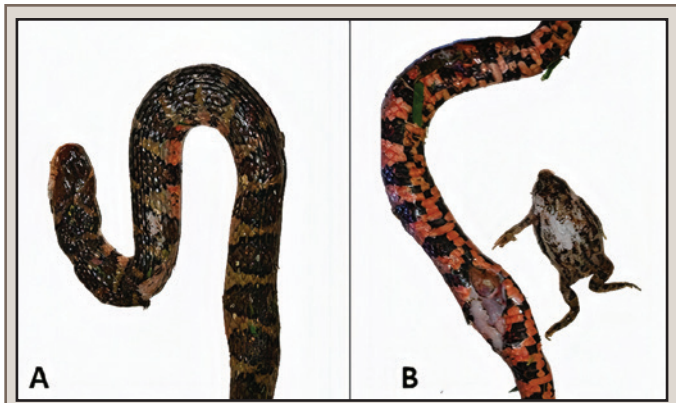


FIG. 1. Dorsal (A) and ventral (B) views of a male *Helicops angulatus* from Colombia, with an individual of *Rhinella beebei* found in the stomach.

on anurans by *Helicops angulatus* has frequently been reported (e.g., Martins and Oliveira 1998, *op. cit.*; Teixeira et al. 2017. J. Herpetol. 51:215–222; Acosta-Ortiz and Pardo-Moreno 2019. Bol. Assoc. Herpet. Esp. 30:10–12; Tavares-Pinheiro et al. 2019 Herpetol. Rev. 50:157). The species of the bufonid toads that have been recorded as prey of this snake are *Rhinella margaritifera*, *R. marina*, and *R. mirandaribeiroi* (Reis et al. 2010. Herpetol. Rev. 41:93; Teixeira et al. 2017, *op. cit.*). Herein, we report predation of *Rhinella beebei* by *H. angulatus*.

On 10 May 2021, at 1731 h, during the rainy season (air temp = 27°C) at El Cairo Village, near Villavicencio City, Colombia (4.17461°N, 75.59979°W; WGS 84; 403 m elev.), we found an adult male *H. angulatus* (575 mm total length, 447 mm SVL), which had been killed by local residents. The individual was 21 m behind a building, in a pasture, surrounded by several shallow ponds. Dissection of the snake revealed a minimally digested *R. beebei* (41.3 mm SVL) inside (Fig. 1). To our knowledge, this is the first documented record of *R. beebei* as prey to *H. angulatus*.

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JUAN MANUEL ACOSTA-ORTIZ (e-mail: juan.acostaherp@gmail.com) and **MARÍA HELENA AGUDELO-GONZÁLEZ**, Departamento de Biología y Química, Programa de Biología, Semillero de Investigación Bio-Herp, Universidad de los Llanos, Villavicencio, Colombia.

HELICOPS LEOPARDINUS (Leopard Keelback Snake). MOR-TALITY. *Helicops leopardinus* is an aquatic snake, widely distributed throughout South America (Nogueira et al. 2019. South Am. J. Herpetol. 14:1–274). At 1830 h on 11 April 2019, near the water reservoir of the Campus of Universidade Estadual do Ceará, Fortaleza, Ceará, Brazil (3.7903°S, 38.5548°W; WGS 84), we observed an *H. leopardinus* (MHNC R068) crawling on the litter and crossing a trail of ants (*Atta opaciceps*). The leaf-cutter ants immediately attacked the snake. The ants mauled the snake by cutting the snake's skin and flesh. The snake responded by thrashing vigorously, but the ants continued attacking it until its movements became slower and finally stopped completely. After the snake's death some ants (whole or just their heads) remained attached to the snake's body (Fig. 1). This behavior is probably related to defense of the foraging territory of the ants, which are reported to be strict herbivores (Siqueira et al. 2018. Biotropica 50:1–10). However, we cannot rule out the possibility that the snake was preyed upon, because other leaf-cutter ant species may sometimes be carnivorous (O'Donnell et al. 2005. Biotropica 37:706–709). Other reported predators of this snake