perceived the replicas as colored flowers or fruits because snakes were unknown in ctenosaur diet studies and snakes with such coloration could pose a hazard to the lizards (Janzen and Brodie, *op. cit.*) Our observation clearly shows the willingness of a ctenosaur to attack a snake, even though the racer most closely resembled the monotone color pattern that elicited the fewest attacks in the Janzen and Brodie study. More importantly, this behavior may have implications regarding the potential for *C. similis* to impact threatened or endangered species. If this behavior is innate in *C. similis*, juvenile *Drymarchon corais couperi* (Eastern Indigo Snakes), a threatened species (Moler 1992. Rare and Endangered Biota of Florida, Vol III, Amphibians and Reptiles. University Press of Florida, Gainesville, Florida. 291 pp.), could be severely impacted. A high-density population of *C. similis*, such as found on Gasparilla Island, could negatively affect snake recruitment through such behavior.

Submitted by **RICHARD M. ENGEMAN**, National Wildlife Research Center, 4101 LaPorte Ave., Fort Collins, Colorado 80521-2154, USA (e-mail: richard.m.engeman@aphis.usda.gov); **MATHEW KENNEDY**, USDA/Wildlife Services, 2820 East University Ave., Gainesville, Florida 32641, USA; **BERNICE U. CONSTANTIN**, USDA/Wildlife Services, 2820 East University Ave., Gainesville, Florida 32641, USA; **MISSY L. CHRISTIE**, Charlotte County Environmental & Extension Services, 25550 Harbor View Rd., Suite 2, Port Charlotte, Florida 33980-2503, USA; and **PARKER T. HALL**, USDA/Wildlife Services, 2820 East University Ave., Gainesville, Florida 32641, USA.

DIPLOLAEMUS DARWINI **(NCN). SAUROPHAGY.** *Diplolaemus darwini* is a poorly known leiosaurid lizard found in Patagonia south of 44°S latitude. Data on the diet of this species is sketchy, though some authors mention it to be insectivorous (Cei 1986. Reptiles del Centro, Centro-Oeste y Sur de la Argentina, Mus. Reg. Sci. Nat. Torino, Monogr. IV:1–527). Here we report an observation of interspecific saurophagy by an adult *D. darwini* on an adult *Liolaemus lineomaculatus*.

On 17 January 2008 during a field trip to Sierra del Bagual (49.40°S, 71.83°W; WGS84; elev. 601 m), Lago Argentino Department, Santa Cruz Province, southern Patagonia, Argentina; we observed an adult female *D. darwini* (92.9 mm SVL, 61.6 mm tail) basking on a rock in shrub-steppe habitat. When we chased it, the lizard ran under a rock where we captured it by hand. A few hours after we had temporarily placed this lizard in a plastic container, it regurgitated the remains of a female *L. lineomaculatus* (26.6 mm long × 12.5 mm wide). We estimated the original size of the *L. lineomaculatus* by comparison with other preserved *L. lineomaculatus* to be ca. 60 mm SVL. We also examined the remaining stomach contents of the *D. darwini* and found it to contain two tenebrionid beetles (*Nyctela* sp.). These two lizard species are synoptic in this area of Patagonian steppe and usually share similar habitats. Saurophagy has not been previously documented in the field for *D. darwini*.

D. R. Perez verified the identifications and the *D. darwini* (LJAMM 9390) and the *L. lineomaculatus* (LJAMM 7292) were deposited in the Herpetological Collection LJAMM (Luciano Javier Avila Mariana Morando) of the Centro Nacional Patagónico (CENPAT), Puerto Madryn, Chubut.

Submitted by **CRISTIAN HERNAN FULVIO PEREZ, NATALIA FELTRIN, MARIA FLORENCIA BREITMAN,** and **LUCIANO JAVIER AVILA**, CENPAT-CONICET, Boulevard Almirante Brown 2825, U9120ACF, Puerto Madryn (Chubut), Argentina (e-mail: avila@cenpat.edu.ar).

GAMBELIA COPEI (Cope's Leopard Lizard). **ENDOPARASITES.** *Gambelia copei*, a near-endemic to Baja California, ranges from extreme southern San Diego County, California, south to the northern Cape Region, Baja California Sur, Mexico (Grismer 2002. Amphibians and Reptiles of Baja California Including its Pacific Islands and the Islands in the Sea of Cortés. Univ. California Press, Berkeley, California. 399 pp.). To our knowledge, no reports of helminths exist for this species. The purpose of this note is to document the nematode *Thubunaea iguanae* from *G. copei*.

One *G. copei* female (108 mm SVL) collected in 1949 and deposited in the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (LACM), Los Angeles County, California, USA (LACM 4005, vic. Cerro Elefante, Vizcaino Desert, 27.2966°N, 114.3750°W, WGS84; elev. 335 m) was examined for helminths. The body cavity was opened and the coelomic cavity and visceral organs were examined. One nematode was found. It was cleared in a drop of glycerol on a glass slide, cover-slipped and identified as an adult female *T. iguanae* and deposited in the United States National Parasite Collection, Beltsville, Maryland as USNPC 101071.

Thubunaea iguanae is widely distributed among lizards from the southwestern United States and Mexico and has been reported from crotaphytids, gekkonids, phrynosomatids, teiids, and xantusiids (Telford 1965. Jpn. J. Exp. Med. 35:111–114) as well as colubrid snakes (Goldberg and Bursey 2001. Bull. South. California Acad. Sci. 100:109–116). It is in the family Physalopteridae, which utilize insect intermediate hosts (Anderson 2000. Nematode Parasites of Vertebrates: Their Development and Transmission, 2nd ed. CABI Publishing, Oxfordshire, UK, 650 pp.). *Gambelia copei* is a new host record for *T. iguanae*.

We thank Christine Thacker (LACM) for permission to examine *G. copei*.

Submitted by **STEPHEN R. GOLDBERG,** Department of Biology, Whittier College, Whittier, California 90608, USA (e-mail: sgoldberg@whittier.edu); **CHARLES R. BURSEY,** Department of Biology, Pennsylvania State University, Shenango Campus, Sharon, Pennsylvania, USA (e-mail: cxb13@psu.edu); **KENT R. BEAMAN,** Ichthyology and Herpetology, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, Los Angeles, California 90007, USA (e-mail: heloderma@adelphia.net); and **CLARK R. MAHRDT,** Herpetology Department, San Diego Natural History Museum, San Diego, California 92112, USA (e-mail: leopardlizard@cox.net).

GLAPHYROMORPHUS NIGRICAUDUS (NCN). **PREY PIRACY.** Prey piracy, the opportunistic theft of prey from another predator or another indirect source, is known for a broad range of diurnal reptilian taxa. In this note I report on an incidence of prey piracy in the skink *Glaphyromorphus nigricaudus*.

Glaphyromorphus nigricaudus is a secretive species restricted to tropical northeast Queensland, Australia. Like most of its genus, it prefers shaded moist habitats and is reported to be nocturnalcrepuscular, but is sometimes active during the day (Cogger 2000. Reptiles and Amphibians of Australia, Reed Publishing, Sydney, Australia. 808 pp.). While conducting fieldwork at Trinity Beach in north-eastern Australia (145.6978°E, 16.7861°S; WGS84; elev. 3 m) at 1453 h EST on the 17 February 2001, I observed an adult *G. nigricaudus* patrolling 5–10 cm from a well-established Green Ant (*Oecotsylla smaragolia*) column oriented in an eastward direction. Many of the ants were transporting prey back to a nest located in a nearby tree. Over a period of 18 min, I observed the lizard lunge quickly at individual ants carrying specific prey. Following each successful lunge, the lizard would retreat a short distance from the column (20–40 cm) to consume the prey. From a nearby vantage point, I determined that the majority of prey items targeted by the lizard were lepidopteran larvae.

The cryptic nature and high diversity of Australian skinks (Cogger, *op. cit.*) implies that the frequency with which prey piracy occurs among Australian skinks may be substantially underestimated. Nonetheless, at least four other cases of skink species opportunistically stealing prey (directly or indirectly) from other predators have been reported. Three of these records involve cases of direct piracy from ant columns by the diurnal species *Carlia munda* (Bedford 1995. Herpetol. Rev. 26:99–100), *Cryptoblepharus virgatus* (Greer 1989. The Biology and Evolution of Australian Lizards. Surrey Beatty and Sons, Chipping Norton, Sydney. 264 pp.), and *Morethia boulengeri* (as *Ablepharus lineoocelatus*) (Chisholm 1923. Aust. Zool. 3:60–71). A fourth observation was the theft of arthropod prey from eumenid mud-wasp nests involving *Cryptoblepharus virgatus* (Phillips 2005. Herpetofauna 35:120). Members of the genus *Glaphyromorphus* are almost entirely terrestrial, crepuscular and secretive in habit (Greer, *op. cit.*), suggesting that high energy prey, such as lepidopteran larvae, may be only infrequently available. If this is indeed the case, instances of prey piracy, as I report here, may provide such species with an additional and energetically favorable form of prey.

Submitted by **BRETT A. GOODMAN**, James Cook University, Townsville 4811, Queensland, Australia; e-mail: brett.goodman@jcu.edu.au.

GLAPHYROMORPHUS PUNCTULATUS (NCN). **ENTRAPMENT.** At 0847 h (EST) on 22 March 2008 while observing a heliothermic skink assemblage (*Carlia rhomboidalis, Eulamprus brachysoma*) at Cape Hillsborough Nature Reserve, Queensland, Australia (20.9217°S, 149.0453°E; WGS84; elev. 10 m), we observed a small skink moving in a conspicuous hapless manner through the leaf litter substrate. The lizard was making considerable noise for an animal of its small size. Closer inspection revealed the skink to be a juvenile *G. punctulatus* with a seed casing of the fruit of the Peanut Tree (*Sterculia quadrifida*) completely enclosing the anterior portion of its head. Initial attempts to loosen and remove the seed casing failed and it appeared the casing had been on the skink's head for a couple of days and had dried to some degree, contracting over its head and neck. The thickness of the seed casing and the absence of holes (apart from the one in which the lizard inadvertently inserted its head) suggests the lizard had no ability to see while the seed casing was on its head. This was further evident by the lizard's abnormal and risk-prone activity, such as wandering through exposed areas of the open forest. As the seed casing was likely to tighten due to further drying, it seemed unlikely that the lizard would have been able extricate itself from the casing on its own, which ultimately would have resulted in the skink's death, directly or indirectly (predation). Careful work made it possible to fracture the casing along three small cracks to allow removing it from the lizard's head. After removal, the lizard was examined for injuries. Minor injury existed to the scales, presumably from rubbing contact with the seed, and minor cuts existed around the lizard's head and neck. Following removal, the lizard was weighed (to ± 0.1 g) and measured (± 0.1 mm) prior to release at the site of capture. The skink weighed 0.5 g and was 36.1 mm SVL with a total unbroken tail length of 46.7 mm. When released, the lizard moved and behaved as typical for a member of this genus. Head trapping by a plant seed casing similar to that reported here was observed in a specimen of *Lampropholis guichenoti* (Langkilde et al. 2002. Herpetofauna 32:131), implying that such entrapment might be more widespread than realized, but rarely observed in nature.

Submitted by **BRETT A. GOODMAN** (e-mail: Brett.Goodman@jcu.edu.au), **KAI I. GOODMAN, BETSY JACKES,** and **JOANNE L. ISSAC**, School of Marine and Tropical Biology, James Cook University, Townsville, Queensland, 4811, Australia.

HEMIDACTYLUS PALAICHTHUS (Spiny House Gecko). **EGG AGGREGATION.** *Hemidactylus* geckos lay clutches of only one or two eggs (Krysko et al. 2003. Amphibia-Reptilia 24:390–396; Fitch 1970. Misc. Pub. Univ. Kansas Mus. Nat. Hist. 52:1–247), but several clutches may be produced annually, greatly elevating reproductive capacity. As many as 20 clutches have been reported to be produced annually (Hernández et al. Especies Exóticas Invasoras. http://www.geocities.com/otecbio_especies/ [consulted 22 February 2006]). Further, egg aggregations (communal nesting and/or repeated use of oviposition site by single females) that locally increase the number of eggs that may offer other advantages, e.g., predator-satiation (Eckrich and Owens 1995. Herpetologica 51:349–354) or thermoregulation (Booth and Astill 2001. Austr. J. Zool., 49:71–48). Large numbers of eggs are typically interpreted as communal nesting, but larger aggregations of gecko eggs may also represent repeated use of oviposition site by individual females or some combination of both (Bock 1996. Herpetol. Rev. 27:181–183).

Large egg aggregations are known for several species of *Hemidactylus*: *H. mabouia*, 6–60 eggs (Dixon and Soini 1986. The Reptiles of the Upper Amazon Basin, Iquitos Region, Peru. Milwaukee Public Museum, Milwaukee. 154 pp.; FitzSimons 1943. The Lizards of South Africa. Transvaal Mus. Mem.,1:1–528; Krysko et al. 2005. Carib. J. Sci. 41:169–172; Rivas et al. 2005. Herpetol. Rev. 36:121–125); *H. turcicus* with up to 20 eggs (Selcer 1986. Copeia 1986:956–962); and *H. brookii* with 16 eggs (Shanbhag 1999. Herpetol. Rev. 30:166). However, we are unaware of any literature recording this or any other aspect of the reproductive biology of *H. palaichthus*.

On 2 February 2006 at 0800 h, during field work on the herpetofauna of north Amazonas, Venezuela (12 km S of Puerto Ayacucho, road to Gavilán, Estado Amazonas, Venezuela; 5.5741667°N, 67.5358333°W, datum: La Canoa; elev. ± 80 m), a pair of adult