and disturbed areas. There are no records of *O. guibei* in the area where *L. annulata* was collected. This suggests that *O. guibei* may have been consumed opportunistically after its collection while transported with other snakes or even in the captivity if it was kept with other specimens before it was preserved. Furthermore, our data suggest that this arboreal snake may forage both on the vegetation and on the ground.

Submitted by **MAURÍCIO CANTOR** and **LÍGIA PIZZATTO**, Universidade Estadual de Campinas, Departamento de Zoologia, CP 6109, 13083-970, Campinas, SP, Brazil (e-mail: maucantor@gmail.com).

MASTICOPHIS MENTOVARIUS (Neotropical Whipsnake). **ATTEMPTED PREDATION AND DIET.** *Masticophis mentovarius* is a large diurnal species distributed from Sonora, México to Colombia (Savage 2002. The Amphibians and Reptiles of Costa Rica: A Herpetofauna Between Two Continents, Between Two Seas, University of Chicago Press, Chicago. 934 pp.). Little is known regarding the biology of northern populations and few predators or predatory attacks have been documented for the species.

On 1 August 2005 at 2219 h we observed a large adult (ca. 1070 SVL) Common Kingsnake (*Lampropeltis getula*) writhing on the road after being struck by a passing vehicle near Navajoa, Sonora. A large section of snake's gut was exposed revealing the partially digested remains of a recently consumed juvenile *M. mentovarius*.

On 3 August 2005 at 2249 h we observed a large adult *M. mentovarius* (ca. 1700 mm SVL) crawling rapidly onto a paved road between Navajoa and Minas Nuevas, Sonora. Upon stopping, we noticed the snake being chased by a small adult American Badger (*Taxidea taxus*). The badger repeatedly bit the snake and in one instance shook it at mid-body. Our presence caused the badger to retreat into the vegetation. Upon inspection we noticed that the snake was injured and bleeding from several sections of its body. The snake contained a large food bolus, which might have hindered its escape. The snake voluntarily regurgitated the prey item, an adult Norway Rat (*Rattus rattus*).

Masticophis mentovarius has been reported as a prey of both the Great Black Hawk (*Buteogallus urubitinga*) in Guatemala (Gerhardt et al. 1993. Biotropica 25:349–352), and the White Tailed Hawk (*Buteo albicaudatus*) in Colombia (Smith 1942. Copeia 2:85–88). Our observations provide novel information regarding the predators of this species in Sonora, Mexico.

Submitted by **ERIC A. DUGAN** (e-mail: edugan1@hotmail.com) and **ALEX FIGUEROA** (e-mail: afigueroa21@gmail.com), Department of Earth and Biological Sciences, Loma Linda University, Loma Linda, California 92350, USA.

MICRURUS BRASILIENSIS (Brazilian Coralsnake). **DIET.** On 7 January 2005 we found what we believe to be an *Apostolepis assimilis* (500 mm SVL, 40 mm TL, 15 g) in the stomach of a DOR adult *Micrurus brasiliensis* (610 mm SVL, 40 mm TL, 32 g) collected at Fazenda Floryl (13.95ºS 46.01ºW), near the municipality of Correntina, Bahia. Specific identification of the prey species was not possible as the head was missing. The snakes were deposited in the Coleção Herpetológica da Universidade de Brasília, Brasília, Brazil (*M. brasiliensis* - CHUNB 39081 and *A.* cf. *assimilis* - CHUNB 39079). Martins and Oliveira (1998. Herpetol. Nat. Hist. 6:78–150) recorded predation of *Apostolepis* sp. by *Micrurus spixii* in Manaus region, Central Amazon, Brazil. However, our observation is the first record of *Apostolepis* in the diet of *M. brasiliensis*.

We thank F. Floryl/Jatobá and D. F. Silva for assistance.

Submitted by **ADRIANA BOCCHIGLIERI**, Programa de Pós-graduação em Ecologia, Universidade de Brasília, 70910-900, Brasília, DF, Brazil (e-mail: adriblue@hotmail.com); and **MARCELO LIMA REIS**, Diretoria de Conservação da Biodiversidade/ICMBio, 70818-900, Brasília, DF, Brazil.

MICRURUS CORALLINUS (Painted Coralsnake)**. DIET.** *Micrurus corallinus* is a fossorial and diurnal coralsnake that ranges from Rio Grande do Norte to Rio Grande do Sul states in Brazilian Atlantic Forest (Campbell and Lamar 2004. The Venomous Reptiles of the Western Hemisphere. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, New York). This species feeds primarily on elongate ectothermic prey such as snakes, lizards, and amphisbaenians (Cunha and Nascimento 1978. Mus. Par. Emílio Goeldi Publ. Avuls. 31:1–218; Marques and Sazima 1997. Herpetol. Nat. Hist. 5:88–93).

On 27 May 2007 at 1230 h, I observed an adult male of *M. corallinus* (MNRJ 15119; 430 mm SVL, 31 mm tail length [TL]) feeding on an adult male *Tantilla melanocephala* (Crowned Snake; MNRJ 15120; 205 mm SVL, 62 mm TL) above a rock at Boqueirão, Pontal do Atalaia, Arraial do Cabo, Brazil (22,5899°S, 41,9999°W, 28 m elev.). The *M. corallinus* was swallowing the *T. melanocephala* headfirst before I interrupted. Marques and Sazima (*op. cit.*) reported a positive correlation between prey total length and predator SVL in *Micrurus corallinus*. Prey length ranged from 21–93% of the snake SVL. This is the first record of *M. corallinus* preying on *T. melanocephala*.

Submitted by **ROBERTA R. PINTO**, Departamento de Vetebrados, Museu Nacional, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Quinta da Boa Vista, s/n, 20940-040, São Cristóvão, Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; e-mail: robertarich@gmail.com.

NERODIA SIPEDON (Northern Watersnake). **MORTALITY CAUSED BY MUSSEL.** Interactions between freshwater mollusks and aquatic vertebrates are not uncommon. Freshwater bivalves are prey items for many vertebrates (muskrats, fish, turtles, etc.) and many freshwater mollusks have larval stages that parasitize vertebrates. Freshwater mussels of the family Unionidae have larvae, "glochidia," which are ectoparasites on vertebrates, generally fish species although one species parasitizes the Mudpuppy, *Necturus maculosus* (Parmalee and Bogan 1998. The Freshwater Mussels of Tennessee. The University of Tennessee Press, Knoxville, Tennessee. 328 pp.). Freshwater mussels have evolved different methods of attracting their host to increase their reproductive success, the most dramatic example being species that produce an extension of their mantle that resembles small fish, complete with eye-spots and tails. Furthermore, brooding freshwater mussels will flap and wave these mantle displays to mimic

FIG. 1. *Nerodia sipedon* caught in grasp of a Rabbitsfoot Mussel, *Quadrula cylindrica*.

fish movements, all the while attracting the piscivorous fish that are the host for their larvae (Haag and Warren 1999. Freshwater Biol. 41:1–6). However, these species interactions rarely end in the death of the vertebrate.

On 13 July 2006 we found a *Nerodia sipedon* that might have attempted to strike at a displaying rabbitsfoot mussel (*Quadrula cylindrica)* at a site in the Little River in southeast Oklahoma, USA. The snake's jaw was caught in the grasp of the mussel's valves (Fig. 1), and the snake was dead, likely from drowning in the several inches of water where they were found. Given that *Q. cylindrica* larvae parasitize small fish in the genus *Cyprinella*, and that they have been reported to brood larvae and display from May to July (Parmalee and Bogan 1998, *op. cit.*), we believe that the mussel's display behavior was in part responsible for the snake's death. Because northern *N. sipedon* are known to feed on small fish (Sievert and Sievert 1993. Reptiles of Oklahoma. Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. 104 pp.), we think it is possible that the snake was striking at a fish that was attracted to the displaying mussel. Alternatively, the snake could have thought that the mussel's display itself was an appropriate food item, and struck at the display. Somewhat less likely is the possibility that the snake thought the whole mussel could have been its prey. When any foreign object is thrust into the opening of a mussel shell, the mussel almost always closes its valves. To our knowledge this is the first report of a snake being killed by a mussel and the first time any of us have seen anything like this in our 30+ years of experience of field work in rivers and streams.

We thank the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation for financial assistance.

Submitted by **DANIEL C. ALLEN** (e-mail: dallen@ou.edu), **DANE M. MORRIS**, and **CARYN C. VAUGHN,** Oklahoma Biological Survey, University of Oklahoma, 111 E. Chesapeake Street, Norman, Oklahoma 73069, USA.

NERODIA TAXISPILOTA (Brown Watersnake). **DIET**. *Nerodia taxispilota* is known to feed primarily on fish, particularly catfish (Ictaluridae; Camp et al. 1980. J. Herpetol. 14:301–304). Herein, we report *N. taxispilota* feeding on an invasive catfish previously undocumented as a prey species.

On 17 May 2007 at 1730 h, one of us (AT) observed an adult *N. taxispilota* (ca. 80 cm total length) on the bank of the Ichawaynochaway Creek at the Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research Center, Baker County, Georgia, USA. The snake was holding the anterior end of a live *Pylodictis olivaris* (Flathead Catfish, ca. 20 cm TL). Over the course of ca.1 h, the *N. taxispilota* swallowed half the catfish. *Pylodictis olivaris* is an introduced invasive in the Flint River and its tributaries, including Ichawaynochaway Creek.

Submitted by **ALEX TYSON, DAVID A. STEEN**, and **LORA L. SMITH**, Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research Center, Route 2 Box 2324, Newton, Georgia 39870, USA (e-mail: LexTyson@AOL.com)

PLIOCERCUS ELAPOIDES AEQUALIS (Variegated False Coralsnake). **DIET.** *Pliocercus elapoides* is a wide ranging and variable mimic of venomous coralsnakes. It inhabits rainforest and cloud forest slopes in México and Central America.

On 24 June 2007 at 0900 h we observed a male *P. elapoides aequalis* (287 mm SVL, 496 mm total length) feeding on a ca. 28 mm SVL *Gastrophryne elegans* (Microhylidae; Elegant Narrow-mouthed Toad). The observation was made on a narrow dirt path at the edge of tropical rainforest near Laguna Escondida, Los Tuxtlas, Veracruz, Mexico (18.5908ºN, 95.0882°W, 150 m elev., WGS84). The snake held the anterior body portion of the dead frog inside its mouth and spent ten minutes to swallow it completely. The event was photographed and the snake was measured and released.

It is known that *P. elapoides* feed on amphibians. Stuart (1948. Misc. Publ. Mus. Zool. Univ. Michigan 69:1–109) and Duellman (1963. Univ. Kansas Publ. Mus. Nat. Hist. 15:205–249), mentioned that in Guatemala *P. elapoides* diet consists of salamanders of the genus *Bolitoglossa*. Also, Seib (1985. Unpubl. Ph.D. dissertation, Univ. California, Berkeley. 229 pp.) reported *Bolitoglossa* and *Eleutherodactylus* parts and terrestrial amphibian eggs in Chiapas (southern México) and adjacent Guatemala as stomach contents. This is the first record of *Gastrophryne elegans* in the diet of this species.

Submitted by **ELISA CABRERA-GUZMÁN, MARCO ANTONIO MÁRQUEZ,** and **VÍCTOR HUGO REYNOSO,** Colección Nacional de Anfibios y Reptiles, Instituto de Biología, Departamento de Zoología, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Circuito exterior, Ciudad Universitaria, México D.F., C.P. 04510 (e-mail: anfisbenido@yahoo.com).

SIPHLOPHIS COMPRESSUS (Red-eyed Liana Snake)**. CANNIBALISM.** *Siphlophis compressus* is a rare, primarily nocturnal and often arboreal forest colubrid occurring from Costa Rica south to Brazil, including Trinidad (Martins and Oliveira 1999. Herpetol. Nat. Hist. 6:78–150; Boos 2001. Snakes of Trinidad and Tobago. Texas A&M University Press, College Station, Texas; Solórzano 2005. Snakes of Costa Rica. Instituto Nacional de Biodiversidad, Costa Rica). Data on the diet of *S. compressus* indicate that the species is primarily a lizard specialist