PHOTO BY KELSEY BENNETT

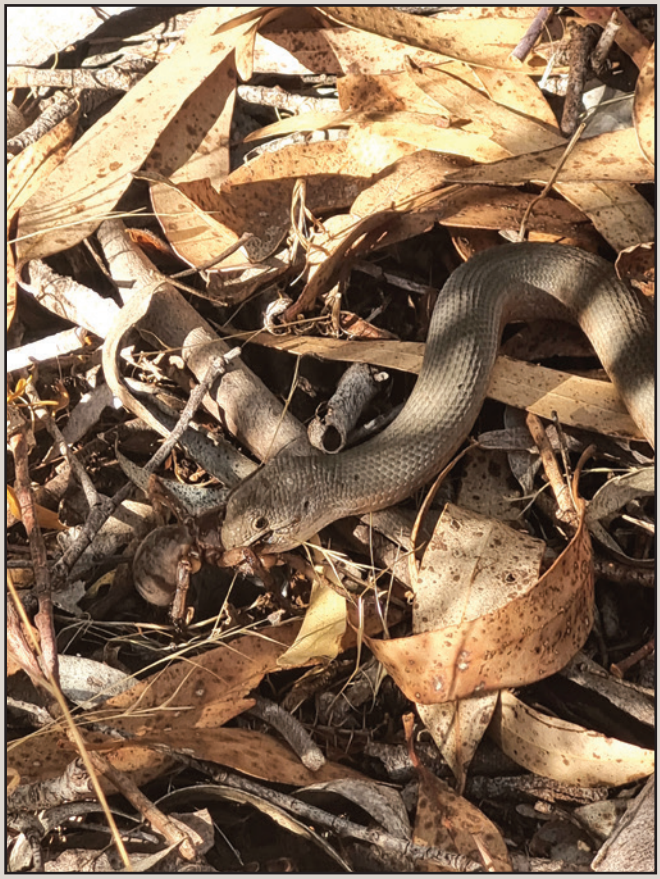

FIG. 2. *Pygopus lepidopodus* slowly ingesting the spider headfirst.

was surprising the lizard ingested the spider at the entrance to the burrow rather than hiding under the leaf litter.

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***SALVATOR MERIANAE* (Argentine Black-and-white Tegu). DIET.** *Salvator merianae* is a large-bodied South American lizard that inhabits forest edges, natural open areas as well as urban environments (Presch 1973. Copeia 1973:740–746; Ávila-Pires 1995. Lizards of Brazilian Amazonia. Zool. Verh. Leiden. 299:1–706). The species is a dietary generalist consuming plants, invertebrates, fishes, amphibians, reptiles, mammals, and birds; of the latter, *S. merianae* are known to prey on at least 14 bird species (Diniz et al. 2021. North-West. J. Zool. 17:309–314). Here, I report a predation of a juvenile *Aramides saracura* (Slaty-breasted Wood-Rail; Rallidae) by an adult *S. merianae* in southern Brazil.

On 29 November 2024, at 1143 h, I observed an adult male *S. merianae* manipulating and eating a juvenile *A. saracura* (Fig. 1) in a wooded residential yard in Caldas da Imperatriz (27.7260°S, 48.8139°W; WGS 84; 203 m elev.), Municipality of Santo Amaro da Imperatriz, Santa Catarina, Brazil. I estimated the bird to be ca. 30–40% of the size of the lizard. The lizard started to eat the bird headfirst and spent ca. 12 min ingesting its prey. To my knowledge, this is the first report of *S. merianae* preying on *A. saracura*. The size of this bird in relation to the lizard was impressive, but *S. merianae* is known to eat other large birds such as *Aramus guarauna* (Limpkin) (Hipolito and Sazima 2018. Rev. Bras. Ornitol. 26:231–233).

PHOTOS BY GUILHERME WILLRICH

FIG. 1. *Salvator merianae* predation upon a juvenile *Aramides saracura* in the Municipality of Santo Amaro da Imperatriz, Santa Catarina, Brazil.

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***SCELOPORUS DUGESII* (Duges' Spiny Lizard). DIET and REPRODUCTION.** *Sceloporus dugesii* is a diurnal lizard of temperate forests distributed in Nayarit, Colima, Querétaro, Michoacán, San Luis Potosí, and Jalisco, Mexico (Lemos-Espinal et al. 2018. ZooKeys 753:83–106; McKay et al. 2019. Bol. Asoc. Herpetol. Esp. 30:54–60; Cruz-Elizalde et al. 2022. Amphib. Reptile Conserv. 16:148–192). Although the distribution of *S. dugesii* is well known, little information is available concerning its diet and reproduction. To our knowledge, there is only one study on its reproduction, and little is known on its diet (Ramírez-Bautista and Dávila-Ulloa 2009. Southwest. Nat. 54:400–408). Herein, we provide additional data on the clutch size, and egg attributes, and diet of *S. dugesii* from Jalisco, México.

On 2 April 2023, we collected an adult female *S. dugesii* (59.9 mm SVL) that was killed by a cat in San Pedro, Municipality of San Juanito de Escobedo, Jalisco, Mexico (20.8167°N,

PHOTO BY EDUARDO A. GÓMEZ-HERNÁNDEZ

FIG. 1. Oviductal embryo of *Sceloporus dugesii* from a female collected in San Pedro, Municipality of San Juanito, Jalisco, Mexico.

104.0627°W; WGS 84; 1369 m elev.). We brought the specimen to the Laboratory of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services at the Centro Universitario de la Costa of Universidad de Guadalajara, Mexico for dissection. A cut was made in the abdominal cavity to observe enlarged follicles, oviductal eggs or embryos in the female (e.g., Goldberg 1971. Herpetologica 27:123–131), and we also measured the length, width, and mass (g) of the oviductal eggs and embryos. Finally, we removed the stomach contents and examined them under an Olympus optical microscope. Prey items were identified to the lowest taxonomic level possible using specialized literature.

We found two eggs (length = 13.1 mm, 10.8 mm; width = 9.3 mm, 10.5 mm; mass = 0.41 g, 0.32 g), each with well-developed, stage 39, embryos (Fig. 1). We measured these embryos in the eggs (length = 9.9 mm, 13.2 mm; width = 7.8 mm, 9.3 mm; mass = 0.41g and 0.39 g). In the stomach of the adult we found unidentified vegetation matter and the heads and body parts of nine Longhorn Crazy Ants (*Paratrechina longicornis*).

Ramírez-Bautista and Dávila-Ulloa (2009, *op. cit.*) observed that the reproductive cycle of *S. dugesii* occurs from autumn to spring. Specifically, they observed that the most embryos found in April were in development stage 39, which is congruent with our observation, as were the clutch size of two, and both egg and embryo sizes reported by Ramírez-Bautista and Dávila-Ulloa (2009, *op. cit.*), but they did not present volume and mass of the embryos. Ants are common in the diet of many *Sceloporus* (e.g., Parker and Pianka 1973. Herpetologica 29:143–152), and *P. longicornis* have been reported in the stomach contents of *S. melanorhinus* (López-Montes et al. 2022. Herpetol. Cons. Biol. 17:31–36). To our knowledge this is the first report of the non-native, invasive *P. longicornis* in the diet of *S. dugesii*. This invasive ant has become widespread and common to urban areas (Wetterer, 2008. Myrmecol. News 11:137–149) such as where this individual of *S. dugesii* was found, i.e., in a house courtyard. The interaction between *P. longicornis* and *Sceloporus* species should be studied in the future to understand the implications not only in the feeding habits but in the life history of *S. dugesii* (e.g., Huang 2008. Ecol. Entomol. 33:555–559; Darracq et al. 2017. Ecosphere 8:e01657.).

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***TROPIDURUS CATALANENSIS*. PREDATION.** *Tropidurus catalanensis* is a common terrestrial and forest-dwelling lizard found in Brazil, southeastern Paraguay, northeastern Argentina, and northwestern Uruguay. This species is mainly saxicolous found near or on rock outcrops of Pampas grasslands, and Paraná, and Uruguai river valleys (Kunz and Borges-Martins. 2013. Zootaxa. 3681:413–439). Here, we report a novel avian predator on *T. catalanensis* from southern Brazil.

On 19 September 2007 at 1537 h, we observed a *Glaucidium brasilianum* (Ferruginous Pygmy Owl) preying on an adult *T. catalanensis* along the banks of the Paraná River, Alto Paraíso Municipality, Brazil (23.2237°S, 53.4602°W; WGS 84; 262 m elev.). We saw the owl fly from the ground holding the lizard in its talons, to a perch ca. 1.6 m above the ground, 15 m from the capture point (Fig. 1). The lizard appeared to still be alive until the owl pecked its head three times and the lizard ceased moving. Very quickly the owl began tearing and ingesting the lizard, starting with the thighs, but after ca. 2 min the owl became aware of us and flew off with lizard into the forest and out of view.

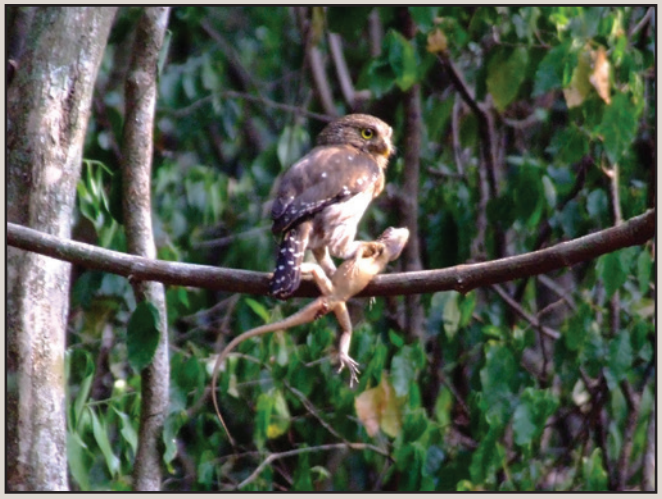

PHOTO BY JOÃO MARCELO DELIBERADOR MIRANDA

FIG. 1. Adult *Glaucidium brasilianum* preying upon a *Tropidurus catalanensis* in Atlantic Forest, southern Brazil.

To our knowledge this is the first report of bird predation on *T. catalanensis*, although birds, including owls, have been reported to prey on other *Tropidurus* species (Carrera et al. 2008. Ornithol. Neotrop. 19:315–319; Diele-Viegas et al. 2023. Ornithol. Res. 31:152–155). *Glaucidium brasilianum* is a small, diurnal, and generalist owl, being a widely distributed species that presy on a wide range of prey, and often feeds on lizards (Proudfoot and Beasom 1997. Wilson Bull. 109:741–748; Carrera et al. 2008, *op. cit.*).

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***TROPIDURUS SEMITAENIATUS* (Calango-de-lajeiro; Striped Lava Lizard). PREDATION.** *Tropidurus semitaeniatus* is terrestrial, saxicolous specialist lizard endemic to the Caatinga and transitional zones in northeastern Brazil (Vitt 1995. Occ. Pap. Oklahoma Mus. Nat. Hist. 1:1–29; Uchôa et al. 2022. Vert. Zool. 72:599–659). Little is known about this lizard's predators,

FIG. 1. *Guira guira* from Brazil holding a *Tropidurus semitaeniatus* in its beak.