

maintains water after significant rain events and dries completely during the dry season. Two digital photographs were taken and were deposited at the Amphibian and Reptile Diversity Research Center, University of Texas at Arlington (UTADC 6246–47). This is the first confirmation that *Sibon* spp. feeds on *A. callidryas* eggs (Ryan and Lips [*op. cit.*] suggested that this might be the case for *S. nebulatus*) and expands the species of frog eggs that are preyed upon by *S. argus*. This further suggests that amphibian eggs might provide an important component of the diet of *Sibon* spp.

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THAMNOPHIS ELEGANS (Terrestrial Gartersnake). FEEDING BEHAVIOR, PREY SUBJUGATION BY DROWNING. *Thamnophis elegans* has been reported to feed on a wide variety of invertebrate and vertebrate species including slugs, earthworms, fish, amphibians, birds, and small mammals (Stebbins 2003. A Field Guide to Western Reptiles and Amphibians. Houghton Mifflin Co., New York, New York. 533 pp.). Compared to other prey taxa, predation on mammals poses serious risks to this species because of mammals' high activity levels and the presence of sharp claws and teeth. Although some populations of *T. elegans* regularly prey on small mammals, they are poor constrictors, using coiling to "pin" their prey, at which time ingestion of the struggling victim occurs (Gregory 1978. Can. J. Zool. 56:1967–1974). Because *T. elegans* lack any strong immobilization mechanisms (i.e., venom or efficient constriction) and are inefficient predators of mammals, selection may favor novel techniques for subjugating these potentially dangerous prey.

On 17 September 2009 at 1645 h, near the bank of a man-made pond in Logan, Utah, USA (41.720309°N, 111.845749°W, datum WGS84; elev. 1369 m), we observed an adult *T. elegans* (total length ca. 50 cm) attack a mouse (body length ca. 6–9 cm). The snake struck the mouse at the posterior end, just above the tail. The snake attempted to subdue the mouse by coiling. Although this behavior looks similar to the constricting behaviors exhibited by other snakes, *T. elegans* rarely kills its prey in these attacks and uses this behavior to subdue the prey long enough to ingest it live (Gregory et al. 1980. Herpetologica 36:87–93).

The snake continued this coiling behavior on the shore of the pond for approximately 1 min at which time it rolled into the pond with its prey. While in the water the mouse continued to struggle, often temporarily freeing itself from the snake's coils long enough to come to the surface for air. The snake, however, still retained the mouse at its hind end and the mouse was quickly re-submerged and wrapped up. The snake and its prey continued in this manner for 7 min, and after 2 min of complete submersion the mouse appeared to have drowned. During the entire predation event, the snake's head remained submerged under water. At the time the mouse stopped moving, we were able to see that the snake had at least two coils wrapped loosely around the mouse.

The snake remained wrapped around the mouse, with its head still submerged, for another 3 min as the current caused the pair to

drift to the center of the pond. We then observed the snake swim towards shore pushing the dead mouse in front of it for 10 m. We were unable to continue the observations and it is unknown if the snake consumed the mouse.

Although it is not uncommon for *T. elegans* to prey upon mice and other small rodents, this is the first record of *T. elegans* killing its prey by drowning. Because *T. elegans* is often found near water (Stebbins, *op. cit.*), it is possible that this type of predatory behavior is more common than has previously been thought.

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THAMNOPHIS FULVUS (Central American Highland Garter-snake). DIET. *Thamnophis fulvus* is a terrestrial and semi-aquatic highland snake that is restricted to Nuclear Central America (Köhler 2003. The Reptiles of Central America. Herpeton, Offenbach, Germany. 368 pp.). Almost no information has been reported regarding the diet or foraging ecology of *T. fulvus*, as is the case with a number of Mesoamerican congeners (Rossman et al. 1996. The Garter Snakes: Evolution and Ecology. Univ. Oklahoma Press, Norman. 332 pp.). Brodie et al. (1991. Biotropica 23:58–62) stated that *T. fulvus* was known to feed on *Bolitoglossa* (Caudata: Plethodontidae), and in feeding trials *T. fulvus* accepted both *B. rostrata* and *B. subpalmata*. In Honduras, this species is found in the vicinity of streams, as well as temporary and permanent ponds in highland areas in the southwestern portion of the country. McCranie and Wilson (2002. SSAR Contrib. Herpetol. 19:i–x, 1–625) indicated that an adult specimen from Zacate Blanco (erroneously cited as "Zacate Grande"), Depto. Intibucá, Honduras, regurgitated a single *Hypopachus barberi* (Anura: Microhylidae). In addition, they reported *T. fulvus* as abundant in a stream at the type locality (Depto. de Ocotepeque: El Chagüitón) of *Craugastor anciano* (Anura: Craugastoridae) where it "was probably preying on these frogs."

On 24 May 2008, we collected two specimens (UF 152960–61) of *T. fulvus* in a cattle pond (14.146537°N, 87.844239°W, datum WGS84; elev. 2160 m) about 5 × 12 m in size, located about 3.4 airline km NNW Guajiquiro, Depto. La Paz, Honduras. The adult male *T. fulvus* (UF 152960) contained two adult *Exerodonta catracha* (Anura: Hylidae; UF 152962–63), a small hylid endemic to the highlands of southwestern Honduras. The adult female *T. fulvus* (UF 152961) contained one *Hypopachus barberi* (UF 152967), three *E. catracha* (UF 152964–66), and some frog eggs attached to the latter specimens. At this location, *H. barberi* were observed either floating on the surface of the pond or, in the case of calling males, sitting in concealed positions along the pond's edge. *Exerodonta catracha* were found floating in the pond as well, and were also extremely abundant in the grass and trees around the pond. Both anuran species were remarkably plentiful at this site, apparently due to fact that the first heavy rain of the season fell the night prior to our visit.

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