

During the rainy season on 21 May 2013 at ca. 2110 h, we observed an adult female *H. mabouia* (57.5 mm in SVL) with two eggs in its abdomen (viewable through the skin) and a conspecific juvenile gecko (36.5 mm in SVL) inside its mouth (Fig. 1). The adult had a firm bite hold on the lateral region of the juvenile's torso. Our observation occurred in a residence in the urban area (0.002694°S, 51.091306°W, datum WGS84; 31 m elev.), municipality of Macapá, State of Amapá, northern Brazil. The observations here lasted 20–35 minutes. Seven minutes subsequent to ingestion, the adult female gecko regurgitated the juvenile. The regurgitation may have been caused by the body size of the juvenile, which represented more than half of SVL female adult. A previous case of cannibalism in this species was reported from southeastern Brazil (Pombal and Pombal, Jr. 2010. *Herpetol. Rev.* 41: 223–224). Cannibalism in *H. mabouia* might represent opportunistic feeding based on an increase in the juvenile population or as a strategy to minimize the ecological costs during periods of low arthropod availability.

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HEMIDACTYLUS MABOUIA (African House Gecko). **PREDATION BY CALLITHRIX PENICILLATA**. *Hemidactylus mabouia* is an exotic lizard that broadly distributed in Brazil from forests to urban areas (Sousa and Freire 2010. *Biotemas* 23:231–234) but native to Africa. This is a nocturnal species, sheltering in crevices and under tree bark during the day. Marmosets (*Callithrix* spp.) are endemic Brazilian primates that consume different kinds of food, from plant reproductive parts to animals, such as insects, toads, and lizards (e.g., *Anolis*, *Mabuya*) (Martins and Setz 2000. *Int. J. Primatol.* 21:476–476; Passamani and Rylands 2000. *Primates* 41:27–38; Rylands et al. 2009. *In Ford et al. [eds.], The Smallest Anthropoids: the Marmoset/Callimico Radiation*, pp. 25–61. Springer, New York). In this short note, we describe an autotomy event in *H. mabouia* followed by its predation by *C. penicillata* (É. Geoffroy, 1812).

On 18 June 2013, while monitoring a group of *Callithrix penicillata* (eight individuals), we observed the capture and predation of an individual *Hemidactylus mabouia* by two marmosets (a juvenile and an adult). This event occurred in a Cerrado remnant, located in the urban area of Campo Grande, state of Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil (20.301418°S, 54.365219°W). At 0929 h (ambient temperature = 28°C), a juvenile marmoset (< 6 months) was foraging on a trunk (ca. 60 cm circumference) at ca. 1.5 m above ground. It tracked and captured a *H. mabouia*. Instantaneously, the lizard released the tail while in the hands of the primate, launched itself to the ground, and remained motionless. The juvenile marmoset started to eat the tail, whereas the adult marmoset (> 2 years) searched the ground intensively. After 1 min (0930 h), the adult marmoset came down to the ground, leaped onto the lizard, captured it and brought it to its mouth. Later, the same individual marmoset climbed a tree at 2 m above ground and started to eat the lizard (Fig. 1). The juvenile marmoset made successive requests for food to the adult, which shared a small part of the lizard. From the tracking to the end of the ingestion approximately 6 min elapsed.

Tail autotomy in lizards is a mechanism that may reduce mortality by predation, since tail movements (postautotomy) may distract or confound the predator (Congdon et al. 1974. *Science*

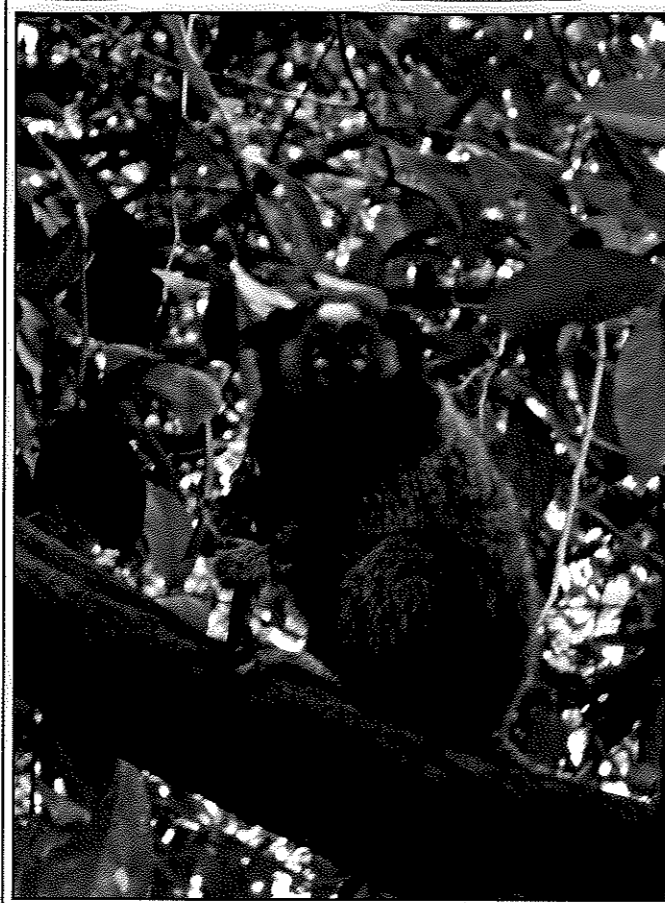


FIG. 1. An adult *Callithrix penicillata* preying on *Hemidactylus mabouia* in Campo Grande, Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil.

184:1379–1380). However, it is possible that this antipredator mechanism is more efficient against solitary predators than against individuals that forage in groups, such as marmosets.

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HOLASPIS GUENTHERI (Günther's Gliding Lizard). **PREDATION**. On 13 January 2010, at 1117 h, one of us (SI) observed and photographed an adult Senegal Kingfisher (Coraciiformes: Alcedinidae: *Halcyon senegalensis*) holding an adult *Holaspis guentheri* in its beak. The bird was perched on the landing strip barrier of the Joachim Mahothes Magouindi Airport (2.79°S, 10.06°E), Gamba, Ogooué-Maritime Province, southwestern Gabon. Neither the bird nor the lizard was collected, but their respective color patterns readily distinguish them from related taxa recorded in the region (Angehr et al. 2006. *In* Alonso et al. Gamba, Gabon: Biodiversité d'une forêt équatoriale africaine, pp. 327–351. *Bull. Biol. Soc. Washington* 12; Pauwels and Vande



FIG. 1. A Senegal Kingfisher (*Halcyon senegalensis*) with an adult Günther's Gliding Lizard (*Holaspis guentheri*).

weghe 2008. *Reptiles du Gabon*. Smithsonian Institution, Washington. 272 pp.). It is the first time that this specific predator-prey relationship is reported.

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LIOLAEMUS MONTICOLA (Mountain Lava Lizard). **PREDATION ON LIOLAEMUS LEMNISCATUS**. *Liolaemus* is a diverse genus of small to medium-sized, omnivorous lizards, distributed in the southern hemisphere of the Neotropical realm. *Liolaemus monticola* is endemic to Chile and is distributed in Andean scrub from Coquimbo to Maule regions, from 500–3000 m elev. (Pincheira-Donoso and Nuñez 2005. *Publ. Ocas. Mus. Nac. Hist. Nat. Chile* 59:1–486). This species is an active forager on insects with more than 50% of its reported diet as ants (Fuentes and Ipinza 1979. *J. Herpetol.* 13:123–124; Vidal and Labra 2008. *Herpetología de Chile*. Science Verlag, Santiago. 593 pp.). Here I report an observation of saurophagy.

On 21 January 2011, at 1100 h, on a sunny day with an ambient temperature of 22°C, an adult *L. monticola* (mean SVL 157



FIG. 1. *Liolaemus monticola* eating a juvenile *L. lemniscatus*.

mm and tail length at 94 mm) was observed attacking and then ingesting a juvenile *Liolaemus lemniscatus* (SVL = 45 mm) at Fundo Las Lomas, Colina County, Metropolitan region, Central Chile (33.065546°S, 70.670172°W, WGS84; elev. 810 m). The adult was resting in the soil and then chased the *L. lemniscatus* when it approached, taking ca. five minutes to capture and ingest the small lizard, and then sought refuge under some rocks. The habitat was an open and rocky scrubland dominated by *Baccharis linearis* and *Proustia cuneifolia*, with an additional assemblage of annual forbs. The area is not currently pristine with the original vegetation showing anthropogenic disturbance as a result of wood and charcoal extraction, and livestock use. To my knowledge, this is the first record of saurophagy for *L. monticola* as well as for the entire genus of *Liolaemus* (cf. Vidal and Labra, *op. cit.*).

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LIOLAEMUS WIEGMANNII. **PREDATION**. Lizards are typical prey items for birds, however direct observations of predation are relatively rare in the field. The sand lizard *Liolaemus wiegmannii* (SVL = 42–64 mm), is largely restricted to sandy soils of a vast region of Argentina and Uruguay (Ceí 1993. *Reptiles del Noroeste, Nordeste y Este de la Argentina*. Museo Regionale di Scienze Naturali. Torino, Italy. 949 pp.). This species occurs along coastal sand dunes of the Buenos Aires Province in semi-fixed dunes, usually far away from open spaces and beach (Block et al. 2012. *J. Herpetol.* 46:608–613). This note reports a single observation of predation on *Liolaemus wiegmannii* by a Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*). The Burrowing Owl is commonly found in grassy plains of Argentina, being the most abundant owl in agroecosystems (Bellocq and Kravetz 1994. *Ecol. Austral.* 4:29–34). Reptiles, like the sand lizard, are generally less common prey item in the owl's diet (0.3%, Sanchez et al. 2008. *Ornitol. Neotrop.* 19:71–80).

During a lizard survey through coastal sand dunes in Arenera Galati (37.38658°S, 57.05781°W; datum Campo Inchauspe), Buenos Aires Province, on 31 October 2008 at 1030 h, we observed the carcass of an adult female of *L. wiegmannii* (SVL = 52 mm; total length = 64 mm) lying a few centimeters away from an *A. cunicularia* burrow. The burrow was located on a dune and the owls were present at the moment of the observation. The lizard's body was completely intact suggesting that the lizard had been recently caught. The specimen of *L. wiegmannii* (UNMDP 1778) was deposited in the Herpetological Collection of the Universidad Nacional de Mar del Plata, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

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MEROLES CUNEIROSTRIS (Wedge-snouted Sand Lizard). **CANNIBALISM**. Cannibalism has been observed in a diverse number of reptile species; numerous studies have shown that it is not only common, but that it may play an integral role in shaping the ecology of a species and community dynamics (Fox 1975. *Annu. Rev. Ecol. Syst.* 6:87–106; Jenssen et al. 1989. *Anim. Behav.* 38:1054–1061; Keren-Rotem et al. 2006. *Behav. Ecol. Sociobiol.* 59:723–731). Studies suggest that cannibalism is common in generalist predators that might prey on conspecifics opportunistically. This pattern has been observed in diverse