



FIG. 1. A) *Crotalus durissus ruruima* (MIRR 2472) with *Tropidurus hispidus* prey; B) Close up of ingested *T. hispidus*.

savanna in southeastern Venezuela, west-central Guyana, and the Brazilian state of Roraima (Farias 2016. Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia - Dissertação de Mestrado. 185 pp.). Neotropical Rattlesnakes are known to prey on rodents and other small mammals (Cunha and Nascimento 1982. Bol. Mus. Par. Emilio Goeldi 112:1–58; Salomão et al. 1995. Herpetol. Rev. 27:143) and in rare cases, on lizards (Sant’Anna and Abe 2007. Stud. Neotrop. Fauna Environ. 42:169–174). No specific diet information is available for the subspecies *C. d. ruruima*.

While analyzing the stomach contents of a male *C. d. ruruima* deposited in the Museu Integrado de Roraima (MIRR 2472; 691 mm SVL, 68 mm tail length, 194.08 g), collected in the region of Fazenda Pianto, Mucajaí, Roraima, Brazil, we identified a male *Tropidurus hispidus* (Neotropical Lava Lizard; 53 mm SVL, broken tail, 4.34 g; Fig. 1). This is the first record of *T. hispidus* being consumed by the subspecies *C. d. ruruima*, contributing to our understanding of the natural history of both species (Pizzato and Marques 2009. Amphib. Reptil. 30:533–544; Vanzolini and Carvalho 1991. Pap. Avulsos de Zool. 12:173–226).

RAIMUNDO E. S. FARIAS, Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia. Av. André Araújo, 2.936 - Petrópolis - CEP 69080-971 - Manaus-AM, Brazil (e-mail: raimundoerasmosouza@gmail.com); **LUIS J. O. GERALDES-PRIMEIRO**, Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia/Coordenação de Biodiversidade – Laboratório de Plâncton, Av. André Araújo, 2936, Aleixo, CEP: 69060-001, Manaus, Amazonas, Brazil (e-mail: geraldprimeiro@gmail.com).

CROTALUS OREGANUS HELLERI (Southern Pacific Rattlesnake). DIET. *Crotalus oreganus* eats a diversity of vertebrate prey, but mammals—particularly small rodents and lagomorphs—comprise the majority of the adult diet (Klauber 1956. Rattlesnakes: Their Habits, Life Histories, and Influence on Mankind. University of California Press, Berkeley, California. 1533 pp.; Ernst and Ernst 2011. Venomous Reptiles of the United States, Canada, and Northern Mexico. Volume 2. Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, Maryland. 391 pp.; Sparks



FIG. 1. Adult *Crotalus oreganus helleri* consuming a juvenile *Didelphis virginiana* in Simi Valley, California, USA.

et al. 2015. Herpetol. Rev. 46:161–165). Yet to our knowledge, there are no previous records of marsupials in the diet of *C. oreganus*.

On 27 April 2019 at 1658 h, one of us (JNS) observed an adult *C. o. helleri* in the process of swallowing a small mammal on the sidewalk of the N side of Presidio Drive, ca. 60 m W of the corner of Presidio Drive and Cottonwood Drive/Tapo Street, Simi Valley, Ventura County, California, USA (34.30077N, 118.70965W; WGS 84; 421 m elev.). Close inspection of the hind limbs and tail of the prey (Fig. 1) revealed it was a Virginia Opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*; identification confirmed by R. Voss), a non-native species introduced to California ca. 100 years ago (Gingerich 1995. Florida’s Fabulous Mammals. World Publications, Tampa, Florida. 128 pp.). We estimated the snake’s total length to be 83 cm using ImageJ. This is the first report of any rattlesnake eating a Virginia Opossum (Voss 2013. Toxicon 66:1–6), and also represents a novel diet record for *C. o. helleri*. Many New World opossums possess innate antivenom defense mechanisms, which likely confer advantages in their ecological roles as both predators and prey of New World pit vipers (Voss 2013, *op. cit.*). This, and the fact that this observation was made in the late afternoon, despite the nocturnal activity of Virginia Opossums, makes this prey item unexpected. One explanation is the snake envenomated the opossum either the night before or in the early morning hours and it took several hours for the prey to die and/or the snake to relocate it and begin to swallow it. Alternatively, we cannot rule out the possibility that the opossum was morbidly injured or even killed by, for example, a domestic dog or automobile and subsequently scavenged by the snake.

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JERRY N. STINNER and **ROBERT E. ESPINOZA**. Department of Biology, College of Science and Mathematics, California State University, Northridge, Northridge, California 91330-8238, USA (e-mail: jerry.stinner@csun.edu).

CROTALUS VIRIDIS (Prairie Rattlesnake). DIET. The diet of *Crotalus viridis* includes mammals, birds, lizards, and amphibians (Davis and Douglas 2016. Rattlesnakes of Arizona. Volume I. Eco Publishing, Rodeo, New Mexico. 734 pp.). Several species of “white-footed” or “deer mice” (*Peromyscus boylii*, *P. leucopus*, *P. maniculatus*, and *P. truei*) have been documented or suspected as prey (Klauber 1956. Rattlesnakes: Their Habits, Life Histories, and

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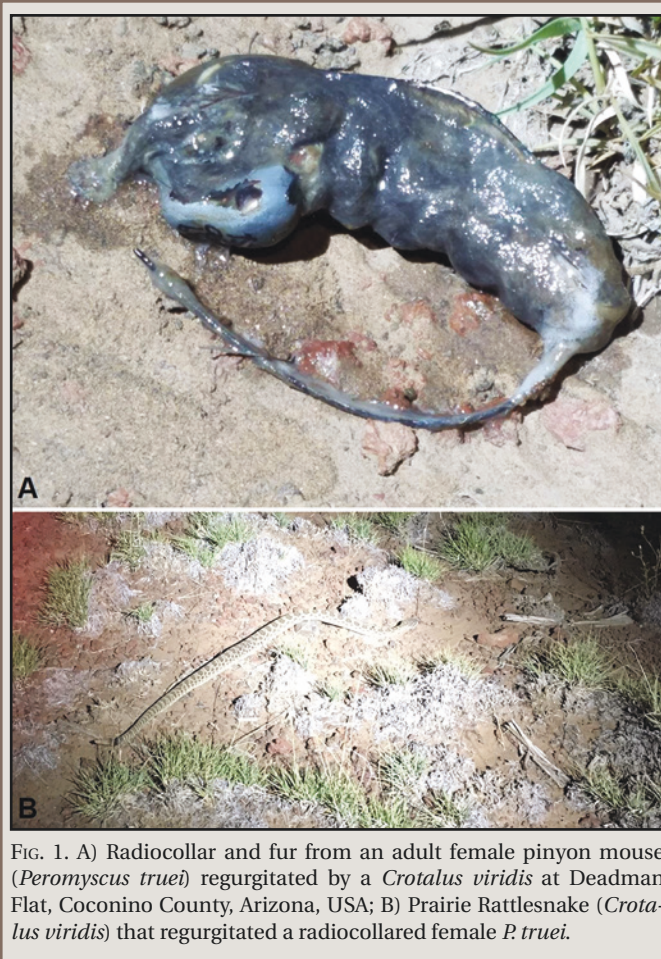


FIG. 1. A) Radiocollar and fur from an adult female pinyon mouse (*Peromyscus truei*) regurgitated by a *Crotalus viridis* at Deadman Flat, Coconino County, Arizona, USA; B) Prairie Rattlesnake (*Crotalus viridis*) that regurgitated a radiocollared female *P. truei*.

Influence on Mankind. University of California Press, Berkeley, California. 1533 pp.; Ernst and Ernst 2011. Venomous Reptiles of the United States, Canada, and Northern Mexico. Volume 2. Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, Maryland. 391 pp.). Here, we document the first unequivocal record of a *Peromyscus truei* (Pinyon Mouse), as prey of *C. viridis*. Our observation occurred as part of a radiotelemetry study on Pinyon Mice at Deadman Flat, Coconino County, 28 km north of Flagstaff, Arizona, USA. We were locating an adult female (30 g) mouse that was captured and radiocollared (Holohil Systems, Ltd., Model BN2C, 1.5 g) on 8 July 2019. The mouse was tracked regularly from 8–21 July 2019, with the last visual sighting under red light (Night Eyes HL50-QR) on 21 July 2019 at 2035 h and last confirmed movement shortly thereafter (2311 h) by BC. No signal from the mouse's radiocollar was detected on the nights of 23–27 July 2019. On 29 July 2019 at 2043 h, ER tracked the mouse's radiocollar signal to the stomach of a *C. viridis* (located at 35.45152°N, 111.58335°W; WGS 84; 1973 m elev.) within the home range of the focal mouse. Within 2 min of locating the animal, ER observed the snake coiling around itself followed by spontaneous regurgitation of a dark gray bolus before moving abruptly underneath a One-seed Juniper (*Juniperus monosperma*). As ER, JS, and BP inspected the bolus of undigested fur and still functional radiocollar (Fig. 1A), the snake (Fig. 1B) circled within 10 m of our location before moving away.

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E. RODEN, Illinois Valley Community College, Oglesby, Illinois 61348, USA; **BRYAN CARLIN**, Department of Biological Sciences, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, Arizona 86011, USA; **JACK SERVICE**, Flagstaff, Arizona 86004, USA; **ERIKA M. NOWAK**, School of Earth and Sustainability, Department of Biological Sciences, and Colorado Plateau Research Station, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, Arizona 86011, USA (e-mail: Erika.Nowak@nau.edu); **BRET PASCH**, Department of Biological Sciences, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, Arizona 86011, USA (e-mail: bret.pasch@nau.edu).

DENDRELAPHIS GRANDOCULIS (Large-eyed Bronzeback Tree Snake). DIET. *Dendrelaphis grandoculis* is an arboreal colubrid endemic to the central and southern Western Ghats of India. It is known to feed on frogs, lizards, and occasionally small snakes and birds (Whitaker and Captain 2004. Snakes of India, The Field Guide. Draco Books, Chennai, India. 495 pp.). However, there is a lack of information about the specific identities of prey animals recorded in the diet of this snake. Herein, we report an instance of *D. grandoculis* feeding on a *Rhacophorus malabaricus* (Malabar Gliding Frog).

At 1327 h on 13 March 2019, at the Agumbe Rainforest Research Station in Agumbe, Karnataka, India (13.51819°N, 75.08862°E; WGS 84), a *D. grandoculis* was observed foraging in the shrubs surrounding a small artificial pond in which we have observed *R. malabaricus* breeding. At 1354 h, the snake caught an *R. malabaricus* that was sleeping under a leaf (Fig. 1A) and then maneuvered the frog's head into its mouth by pushing the frog against a tree branch (Fig. 1B). It then climbed deeper into the vegetation while carrying the frog in its mouth. At this point, we lost sight of the snake, but we presume that it subsequently

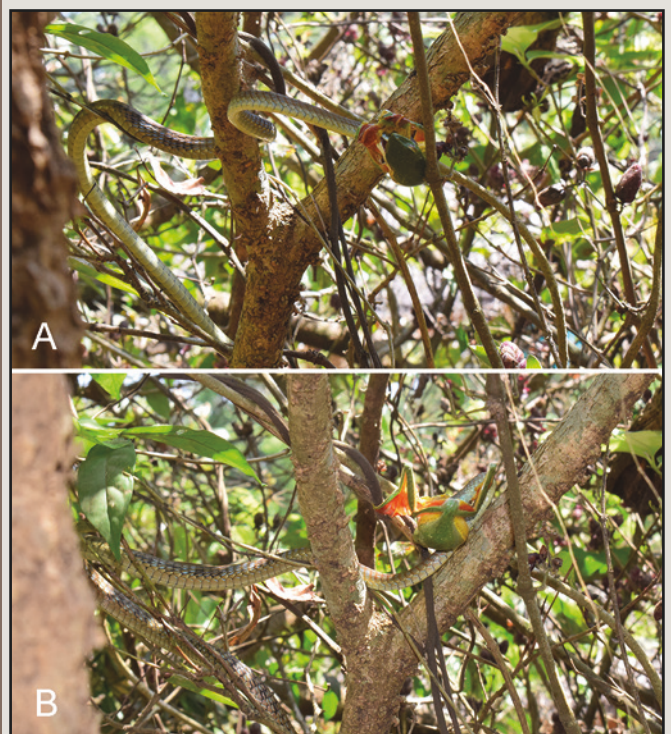


FIG. 1. A) *Dendrelaphis grandoculis* capturing *Rhacophorus malabaricus*; B) *D. grandoculis* maneuvering the frog's head into its mouth with the support of a tree branch.