



FIG. 1. Dissection of an adult female *Eunectes notaeus* revealed ingestion of an immature conspecific female (shown here).

attempting to swallow the same prey. This also seems unlikely because the disparity in size between snakes would likely result in differences in prey size selection. Moreover, the absence of another fresh prey item in the stomach if the larger individual, as would be expected in such a situation, argues against accidental ingestion. Another explanation could be that the larger snake was attracted and confused by the scents left on the body of the smaller individual by the recently eaten rat; but again, it is hard to imagine that a large female anaconda would pursue the scent of such a small rodent (35 g) as prey. Regardless of the circumstances, this is the first time in nine years of work that we have received a reliable record of cannibalism by *E. notaeus* suggesting that the phenomenon is unusual at this location.

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**HELICOPS ANGULATUS (South American Watersnake). DIET.** *Helicops angulatus* is a semi-aquatic and primarily nocturnal dipsadid snake that is widely distributed in northern South America. This species inhabits ponds, streams and rivers (Ford and Ford 2002. Carib. J. Sci. 38:129–132), where it is known to feed on amphibian eggs, adult frogs, and aquatic lizards, but primarily on fish and tadpoles of the genera "*Hyla*" and *Osteocephalus* (Martins and Oliveira 1998. Herpetol. Nat. Hist. 6:78–150).

On 16 May 2009, at ca. 1600 h, an adult female *H. angulatus* (SVL = 490 mm; tail length = 215 mm) was collected near the Unini river's south margin (01.7116°S, 62.8220°W; datum: WGS 84), Barcelos, Amazonas, Brazil. Upon capture, a Cane Toad (*Rhinella marina* = *Bufo marinus*) tadpole was removed from the mouth of the snake. The *H. angulatus* was deposited in the herpetological collection of Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia (IN-PA-H 25379). Upon dissection, we found another seven *R. marina* tadpoles inside the snake's stomach. All tadpoles collected were below the developmental stage 25 (Gosner 1960. Herpetologica 16:183–190).

*Rhinella marina* is known to be toxic and unpalatable to a wide range of predators, but a recent study showed a decrease of both toxin diversity and concentration during its tadpole stage (Hayes et al. 2009. J. Chem. Ecol. 35:391–399). Moreover, several other snake species within the subfamily Xenodontinae prey on adult toads and are able to tolerate bufonid toxins (Duellman and Trueb 1986. The Biology of Amphibians. McGraw-Hill Inc., New York. 670 pp.). Future research should investigate whether *H. angulatus* is also able to tolerate bufonid toxins found in adults, or if consumption of *R. marina* by this snake is restricted to the more palatable tadpole stage.

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**HETERODON NASICUS (Western Hog-nosed Snake). DIET AND ARBOREAL FORAGING BEHAVIOR.** *Heterodon nasicus* is a fossorial snake that primarily inhabits well drained, sandy grasslands of the Great Plains in the United States (Conant and Collins 1991. Reptiles and Amphibians Eastern/Central North America. Houghton Mifflin, Boston, Massachusetts. 450 pp.) *Heterodon nasicus* are known to burrow and forage along the ground for amphibians, reptiles, mammals, and birds, and their offspring, including eggs (Ernst and Ernst 2003. Snakes of the United States and Canada. Smithsonian Press, Washington DC. 680 pp.). Herein, we describe arboreal foraging behavior of *H. nasicus*, including predation upon eggs of *Chondestes grammacus* (Lark Sparrow).

On 7 July 2008 at 2130 h, a pair of *C. grammacus* was discovered jumping and screeching around their nest. The nest was located 1.5 m high in a Chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*) bush near Keystone Lake on Cedar Point Biological Station, Keith Co, Nebraska, USA (41.2110°N, 101.6574°W, datum: WGS84). Upon approaching the nest, an *H. nasicus* was discovered consuming eggs inside the nest, while being harassed by the sparrows. The birds appeared not to harm the snake, despite making physical contact with the snake's posterior end. After 3–5 min of harassment, the sparrows drove the snake away, but not before the snake grabbed another egg in its mouth. The snake awkwardly, but quickly (i.e., almost a controlled fall), undulated down the dense vegetation and moved 5 m away from the nest, underneath the bark of a fallen Eastern Cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*). The snake finished consuming the second egg under this cover. After 10 min, the snake (female; total length = 67 cm) was captured and when palpated, two eggs were found in her stomach. Upon discovery the snake performed a typical defensive display (Ernst and Ernst, *op. cit.*), but did not regurgitate the eggs. The snake was subsequently released under the same Eastern Cottonwood bark refugia. To our knowledge, this is the first record of arboreal foraging in *H. nasicus* and the first record of *C. grammacus* eggs in this species' diet.

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**HETERODON PLATIRHINOS (Eastern Hog-nosed Snake). MAXIMUM SIZE.** On 8 April 2010 a melanistic adult female *Heterodon*