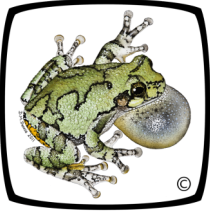


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**UROSTROPHUS VAUTIERI (Brazilian Steppe Iguana).** **DEFENSIVE BEHAVIOR AND COLOR CHANGE.** *Urostrophus vautieri* occurs in southeastern Brazil, from Paraná to Rio de Janeiro State. Basic behavioral information for the genus *Urostrophus* is limited to unpublished notes made on one captive animal by Rand (*In* Etheridge and Williams 1991. *Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool.* 152:317–361). Herein, we describe the first field observation of defensive behavior for this lizard species.

On 11 November 2010, at Serra do Japi Municipal Reserve, Jundiá, São Paulo state (23.235°S, 46.935°W; WGS 1984; elev. ca. 1092 m. At 0936 h). The lizard was observed during a behavioral study of a group of Black-fronted Titi Monkeys (*Callicebus nigrifrons*) conducted in a semi-deciduous secondary forest area. The lizard fell onto the leaf litter from its arboreal perch in front of CBC, just before being contacted by a group of *Callicebus nigrifrons* travelling towards it. It fell off a fructifying *Maytenus robusta* branch at a height of approximately 8 m. Immediately after reaching the ground, its color gradually changed from a grayish green to a reddish brown (Fig. 1). The color change clearly diminished the lizard's conspicuous form on the forest floor. The lizard remained immobile for at least five min, until CBC was no longer present.

This is the second report on behavioral ecology of *Urostrophus vautieri* and the first on color change. We provide a first context for color change in this species regarding potential predation avoidance. The specimen was not captured or manipulated for photographs, as collection inside of the Reserve is prohibited without permits.

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FIG. 1. Color change in *Urostrophus vautieri*. Image at left taken immediately after lizard fell onto leaf litter from an arboreal perch. Image at right taken approximately 2 min later, indicating rapid color change toward substrate matching.

#### SQUAMATA — SNAKES

**ARIZONA ELEGANS ELEGANS (Kansas Glossy Snake).** **DIET.** Medium-sized diurnal lizards comprise a large proportion of the diet of *Arizona elegans* (Rodríguez-Robles et al. 1999. *J. Herpetol.*

33:87–92). Rodríguez-Robles et al. (*op. cit.*) suggest that diurnal lizards may be captured “when they are inactive by nocturnal wide-foraging glossy snakes.” Here we document the first record of *A. e. elegans* feeding on *Sceloporus cautus*, a lizard that is distributed in Mexico from the northeastern section of the Mexican plateau, west from the western edge of the Sierra Madre Oriental, barely entering Tamaulipas, and south from southwestern Coahuila and central Nuevo Leon to the southern portion of San Luis Potosi and northern half of Zacatecas (Lemos-Espinal and Smith 2007. *Amphibians and Reptiles of the State of Coahuila, Mexico.* Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México and Comisión Nacional Para El Conocimiento y Uso de La Biodiversidad. 550 pp.).

While conducting a survey of the herpetofauna of the municipality of Doctor Arroyo, Nuevo Leon, Mexico, driving on state road No. 61 (23.8094°N, 100.0853°W, datum NAD27; elev. 1791 m), on 12 September 2009, we found a road-killed juvenile *A. e. elegans* (female; SVL = 202 mm, total length = 233 mm; 4.19 g), that had in its stomach a juvenile *Sceloporus cautus* (female; SVL = 35 mm; total length = 60 mm; 1.57 g); the lizard represented 37.5% of the mass of the snake. As *A. elegans* is nocturnal and *S. cautus* is diurnal, the lizard was likely captured while inactive. Both specimens were deposited in the herpetological collection of the Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo Leon (*A. e. elegans* = UANL 7128a; *S. cautus* = UANL 7128b). Research and collecting were conducted under the authorization of SEMARNAT scientific research permits OFICIO/NUM/SGP/DGVS/ 02262 issued to DL.

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#### **ASTHENODIPSAS MALACCANUS (Malayan Slug Snake).** **DIET.**

*Asthenodipsas malaccanus* is a rare lowland forest snake from southern Thailand, the Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, and Borneo (David and Vogel 1996. *The Snakes of Sumatra. An Annotated Checklist and Key with Natural History Notes.* Chimaira, Frankfurt am Main. 260 pp.). Its diet has been reported to consist of snails and slugs (Inger and Stuebing 1999. *A Field Guide to the Snakes of Borneo.* Natural History Publications [Borneo] Sdn Bhd, Kota Kinabalu. 254 pp.), without specific information. At ca. 2130 h on 19 September 2010, an adult female *A. malaccanus* (SVL = 357 mm; Fig. 1) was found crossing a paved road within lowland forest (01.6061°N, 110.1955°E, datum: WGS84; elev. ca. 200 m), leading to the summit of Gunung Serapi (elev. 911 m), in Kubah National Park, Sarawak, East Malaysia. The snake was collected (Universiti Malaysia Sarawak Museum, UNIMAS 9379), and taken to the lab. Overnight, it voided an intact slug (RMNH MOL.127788), which was identified as *Valiguna flava* (Gastropoda: Soleolifera: Veronicellidae; Fig. 1), a nocturnal/crepuscular lowland (elev. < 1000 m) terrestrial slug, endemic to Sumatra and Borneo (Gomes et al. 2008. *The Veliger* 50:163–170; Schilthuisen and Liew 2008. *Basteria* 72:287–306).

We thank Sarawak Forest Department for permission to conduct fieldwork at Kubah National Park.

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FIG. 1. Adult female *Asthenodipsas malaccanus* (top; UNIMAS 9379), with its prey, the slug *Valiguna flava* (bottom; dorsal and ventral views; RMNH MOL.127788).

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**BOTHROPS ASPER (Terciopelo). ARBOREAL BEHAVIOR.** *Bothrops asper* is a common, large (up to 2.5 m total length), viperid snake ranging from southern Mexico to northern Venezuela and western Ecuador. Like many vipers, it is an ambush predator, remaining motionless in leaf litter for the majority of its activity budget and moving nocturnally to new ambush spots (Sasa et al. 2009. *Toxicon* 54:904–922). Although *B. asper* is typically regarded as a terrestrial snake (Henderson and Hoevers 1977. Co-



FIG. 1. An adult *Bothrops asper* found in understory vegetation in El Copé, Panama.

peia 1977:349–355), accounts of juveniles in low vegetation have been reported (Savage 2002. *The Amphibians and Reptiles of Costa Rica: A Herpetofauna between Two Continents, between Two Seas*. Univ. Chicago Press, Chicago, Illinois. 934 pp.; Guyer and Donnelly 2005. *Amphibians and Reptiles of La Selva*. Univ. California Press, Berkeley. 298 pp.) There are a few cases, however, of adults being observed in trees or other vegetation (Guyer and Donnelly, *op. cit.*). Here, we report a sighting of an adult *B. asper* in low-lying vegetation in central Panama.

At 1927 h, on 6 September 2010, we observed an adult (ca. 1.5 m total length) *B. asper* at a height of 2 m in a cluster of small understory trees (Fig. 1) at La MICA Biological Station, El Copé, Panama (8.374224°N, 80.345024°W, datum: WGS 84; elev. ca. 300 m). The *B. asper* attempted to cross a path by traversing a thin branch, but failed to do so. At 1955 h the snake left the vegetation and returned to the ground having moved a net horizontal distance of <2 m since the beginning of the observation. Because the snake was outstretched and moving, it seems that the purpose of ascending the vegetation was dispersal rather than ambush site selection. Sasa et al. (*op. cit.*) found that the majority of *B. asper* movements are short-range (<10 m), but that less frequently, longer-range movements (>50 m) related to foraging behavior also take place. This observation supports the idea that adult *B. asper* occasionally engage in arboreal behavior for various reasons.

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**CANDOIA ASPERA (New Guinea Ground Boa). REPRODUCTION.** *Candoia aspera* is known from New Guinea and adjacent island archipelagos (McCoy 2006. *Reptiles of the Solomon Islands*. Pensoft, Sofia, Bulgaria. 147 pp.). In Papua New Guinea it occurs from 0–1300 m elevation (O'Shea 1996. *A Guide to the Snakes of Papua New Guinea*. Independent Publishing, Port Moresby. 239 pp.). Current information on *C. aspera* reproduction is reported by Harlow and Shine (1992. *J. Herpetol.* 26:60–66). The purpose of this note is to provide additional information on the reproductive cycle of *C. aspera*.