

**RHINOBOOTHRYUM BOVALLII** (Coral Cat-eyed Snake). **SIZE.** The maximum total body length reported for *Rhinobothryum bovallii* is 130.2 cm (Wilson and Meyer 1985. The Snakes of Honduras, Milwaukee Publ. Mus., Publ. Biol. Geol. 6, 159 pp.). Here I report a male *R. bovallii* from Costa Rica with a total body length of 176.2 cm (135.0 cm SVL, 41.2 cm tail length). The specimen, University of Costa Rica Museum of Zoology (UCR-14916), was captured by Miguel and Norberto Solano in Guayacán de Siquirres, Limón province (northeastern Caribbean versant) on the night of 14 December 1997, while moving slowly on the floor in primary rainforest.

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**THAMNODYNASTES STRIGATUS** (Corredeira). **DIET.** Amphibians have been reported as prey of *T. strigatus* (Ceí 1993. Mon. XIV Boll. Mus. Reg. Sci. Nat. Torino, 949 pp.; Achaval and Olmos 1997. Anfíbios y Reptiles del Uruguay. Série Fauna N°1, 128 pp.; Marques et al. 2001. Serpentes da Mata Atlântica: Guia ilustrado para a Serra do Mar. Holos Ed., 184 pp.). However, the specific amphibian species have not been reported.

On 9 March 2000, we collected three *T. strigatus*, on the eastern bank of the Uruguai River (28°23'43"S, 52°29'59"W), near the municipality of Itá, in the State of Santa Catarina, Brazil. One specimen (CEPB/NAT 2848; male SVL 546.3 mm) contained the posterior limbs of a specimen of *Odontophrynus americanus* (tibia: 23.0 mm; tarsus: 18.6 mm). The second specimen (CEPB/NAT 2497; female SVL 668.5 mm) contained most of the posterior limbs and pelvic region of a specimen of *Hyla faber* (femur: 40.5 mm; tibia: 46.7 mm; tarsus: 29.9 mm). The third specimen (CEPB/NAT 2469; female SVL 630.3 mm) contained the posterior limbs of a specimen of *Rana catesbeiana* (tibia: 37.2 mm; tarsus: 17.6 mm). Our observations include three families of amphibians in the diet of *T. strigatus*. The snakes and their respective stomach contents are deposited in the Herpetological Collection of the Centro de Estudos e Pesquisas Biológicas, at the Catholic University, Goiânia, Goiás, Brazil.

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**THAMNOPHIS SIRTALIS SIRTALIS** (Eastern Garter Snake). **PREDATION.** On 26 April 2001 in Lake Creek (T16S, R2W, Sec. 13, SW1/4 of NE1/4, Cache, Illinois USGS 7.5' topographic map) Alexander Co., Illinois, USA, one of us (WJP) observed a *Thamnophis s. sirtalis* being carried in the mouth of a gar, *Lepisosteus* sp. (either *L. platostomus*, shortnose gar, or *L. oculatus*, spotted gar) with a portion of the snake's body floating at the surface of the water. The gar swam with the snake for several minutes

under and near the State Route 3 bridge before the snake was hooked using a fishing pole and forcibly taken from the fish. The snake was dead but in good condition and measured 621 mm TL. The attack on the snake was not observed. Gars were abundant in the stream and were seen cruising just below the surface of the water. Four gars caught by hook and line and many others observed that day were all *L. platostomus*.

A spotted gar was reported to have eaten a small turtle, *Sternotherus odoratus*, in Missouri (Redmond 1964. Ecology of the Spotted Gar [*Lepisosteus oculatus* Winchell] in southeastern Missouri. M.A. thesis. Univ. Missouri. viii + 115 pp.). Additionally, *T. sirtalis* has been reported in the diet of largemouth bass, *Micropterus salmoides* (Knapik and Hodgson. 1986. Herpetol. Rev. 17:22). However, this is the first report of *T. sirtalis* or any snake being preyed on by any species of gar. The snake is deposited at the Illinois Natural History Survey (INHS 17214).

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**THAMNOPHIS SIRTALIS SIRTALIS** (Eastern Garter Snake) and **PLETHODON ALBAGULA** (Western Slimy Salamander). **PREDATION.** *Thamnophis sirtalis sirtalis* is a generalized feeder preying mostly on earthworms and amphibians (Uhler et al. 1939. Trans. North Am. Wildl. Conf. 4:605-622). Salamanders (*Ambystoma*, *Desmognathus*, *Eurycea*, *Necturus*, *Notophthalmus*, and *Plethodon*) are among the most frequently consumed amphibian prey (Ernst and Barbour 1989. Snakes of Eastern North America. George Mason Univ. Press, Fairfax, Virginia. 282 pp.). Herein, we describe, for the first time, predation by *T. s. sirtalis* on *Plethodon albagula* from a mine shaft in Arkansas.

We observed a female *T. s. sirtalis* on 11 August 2002 while investigating the nesting ecology of *P. albagula* in an abandoned mine shaft. The mine shaft (Spillway Mine) is a nesting sanctuary for this salamander species; it is located near Blakely Mountain Dam of Lake Ouachita (Garland County) in the Ouachita National Forest of south-central Arkansas. The shaft extends ca. 190 m horizontally into a moderately sloping, rocky hillside. We collected the active garter snake inside the mine shaft at ca. 2.5 m from the mouth of the shaft.

The snake measured 395 mm SVL and 136 mm tail length. Upon necropsy, the snake contained a mostly-digested *P. albagula* in its stomach. It appeared that the salamander had been ingested tail first. We were unable, however, to determine the age or sex of the prey item because of the degree of digestion. We deposited the snake in the Arkansas State University herpetological museum collection (ASUMZ 27218).

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