

coloration and dark viscera visible through the translucent skin. The eyes were pigmented, indicating that the individual was not an albino (Fig. 1A). The female also had light brown patterns on its dorsal region (Fig. 1B). This nocturnal species is generally grey, brown or olive-green in color with highly variable dorsal patterning, and has a large geographical range in New Zealand (Jewell 2008. *Reptiles and Amphibians of New Zealand*. New Holland, New Zealand. 143 pp.). This is one of the rare observations of leucism occurring in wild populations of *W. maculata*.

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XANTUSIA GRACILIS (Sandstone Night Lizard). DIET AND FORAGING BEHAVIOR. Occurrence of *Xantusia gracilis* is limited to a small range of sandstone habitat in the Anza-Borrego Desert of southern California. Due to the location and cryptic nature of *X. gracilis*, very little information has been gathered on its natural history. In captivity, these lizards have been observed eating the eggs of *Phyllodactylus nocticolus* (as *P. xanti*) (Grismer and Galvan 1986. *Trans. San Diego Soc. Nat. Hist.* 21:155–165). While the diet of *X. henshawi* has been extensively



FIG. 1. *Xantusia gracilis* with beetle immediately before predation.



FIG. 2. *Xantusia gracilis* showing interest in *Trimerotropis pallidipennis*.

examined through the analysis of stomach contents (Brattstrom 1952. *Copeia* 1952[3]:168–172), to my knowledge, the hunting behavior and prey items of *X. gracilis* have never been observed in the wild.

On 25 May 2014, we observed an adult *X. gracilis* exposed on a sandstone wall. Light was immediately taken off of the animal in an effort to prevent it from retreating. By the time I readied my camera for a photo voucher, the lizard had disappeared. I approached the last known location of the lizard and discovered it inside the crevice of an exfoliating slab of sandstone. While attempting to take a photo of the lizard through the opening, it exited and consumed an insect on the artificially illuminated sandstone surface. It quickly retreated to the crevice where it was witnessed masticating, and licking its eye. It was observed for about an hour, emerging to prey on various insects, followed by partial to full retreat to the crevice soon after each catch or miss. One of the insects consumed was identifiable as a small beetle (Coleoptera) (Fig. 1). At least one potential prey item was rejected after approach and inspection by the lizard. Interest was shown in a *Trimerotropis pallidipennis* (Pallid-winged Grasshopper) (Fig. 2), with the lizard making a sudden movement in response to the grasshopper leaping. It was difficult to distinguish whether this was a predatory strike or the lizard startled from the grasshopper movement. No physical contact was made with the lizard and it did not appear to be disturbed by human presence or artificial lights. All of the mentioned behavior was video recorded and can be viewed by request to the first author.

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SQUAMATA — SNAKES

AGKISTRODON CONTORTRIX (Copperhead). REPRODUCTION. Robust estimates of lifetime reproduction in female New World pitvipers exist only for several taxa, and in particular *Crotalus horridus* (Timber Rattlesnake). Here, we present data from a wild female *Agkistrodon contortrix* that suggests this species' reproductive lifespan is protracted, similar to *C. horridus* from New York.

On 24 August 2001, a pregnant female *A. contortrix* (SVL = 62.2 cm, tail length = 8.5 cm, mass = 165 g) was captured at our study site (Fig. 1). The area is a 485-ha parcel of basalt trap rock ridge ecosystem located 4.75 km NW of Meriden, Connecticut (Smith et al. 2009. *Herpetol. Monogr.* 23:45–73). She produced a litter of 3 healthy offspring in the laboratory on 5 September 2001. Her post-birth mass was 99.3 g. She was subsequently PIT tagged and released at the exact location of capture.

The female was subsequently captured at the same site (within 1 m) on 25 July 2008, 28 May 2010, 26 July 2011, and 12 August 2013. On 25 July 2008 she appeared pregnant (SVL = 65.3 cm, tail length = 8.5 cm, mass = 340 g) and produced a litter of 6 healthy offspring in the laboratory on 2 September 2008. Her post-birth mass was 162 g. On 28 May 2010, although she did not appear pregnant (SVL = 65.5 cm, tail length = 9.0 cm, mass = 340 g), she was nonetheless brought back to the laboratory for observation. She did not produce a litter in 2010. On 26 July 2011 she appeared pregnant (SVL = 67.6 cm, tail length = 9.0 cm, mass = 274 g) and was brought to the laboratory. She produced a litter of 8 healthy offspring on 28 August 2011. Her post-birth mass was 199 g. On 12 August 2012 she was recaptured at the same location and appeared pregnant (SVL = 67.8 cm, tail length = 9.0 cm, mass = 262

g). She produced a litter of 6 healthy offspring in the laboratory on 31 August 2013. Her post-birth mass was 155.2 g.

From her initial capture on 24 August 2001 until her last capture on 12 August 2013, we documented production of four litters by this female. Additional unobserved litters are possible from 10 October 2001 (when she was released following her first litter) to 25 July 2008 (when she was captured prior to her second litter). Based on her size and indisputable evidence of sexual maturation at the initial capture, we conservatively estimated her age in August 2013 to be 15 years old. Accordingly, we document her reproductive lifespan to be at least 12 years.

Long-term data on wild female *C. horridus* indicate that reproductive senescence is delayed or absent in this species' life history (Brown 1991. *Herpetologica* 47:101–115). Our data on *A. contortrix* are consistent with this suggestion. We encourage others to collect long-term data on individuals of other pitviper species to better understand this important life history characteristic.

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APOSTOLEPIS MULTICINCTA. DIET. *Apostolepis multicincta* (family Dipsadidae) is a small, fossorial snake endemic to the inter-Andean dry valleys of Bolivia in the Departments of Santa Cruz (Reiche and Embert 2005. *J. Herpetol.* 39:379–383) and Chuquisaca (Cortez, *in press*. *Kempffiana*). Little information is available on the natural history of this species, including its diet. The only known prey item is a blind snake (*Leptotyphlops striatula* = *Epicitia striatula*; Embert and Reichle 2003. *Salamandra* 39:249–252). Herein we document a new prey item for *A. multicincta*. On 16 June 2014 at 1500 h we captured an adult *A. multicincta* (male; SVL = 385 mm; tail length = 50 mm; head width = 5.6 mm) crossing the road in the community of Pacay, Florida Province, Santa Cruz Department, Bolivia (18.039722°S, 64.142222°W, WGS 84; elev. 1294 m). Several hours later, while in captivity, the *A. multicincta* regurgitated a juvenile *Amphisbaena cegei* (male; SVL = 140 mm; tail length = 15 mm). This is the second known prey item for *A. multicincta*, and the first instance of an amphisbaenian in its diet. Both individuals were deposited in the Herpetology Collection in the Noel Kempff Mercado Museum, Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia (*A. multicincta* MNKR 5355; *A. cegei* MNKR 5356).

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ASPIDITES MELANOCEPHALUS (Black-headed Python). DIET. Pythons (Pythonidae) are among the largest native predators in many Australian terrestrial communities. However, interactions between these species and the suite of introduced mammalian predators that now dominate much of Australia have rarely been reported. On 7 July 2014, we observed a road-killed *A. melanocephalus* (total length ca. 1.5–2 m) on the Gibb River Road, Western Australia, just west of the turnoff to Windjana Gorge Road in open savanna woodland (Fig. 1). Inspection of the stomach contents revealed three feral cat kittens (*Felis catus*). Based on their small size (ca. 150 mm head–body length), folded ears and closed eyes, these cats were less than a few weeks old and had been consumed in one session, presumably when the python found them in a den. The posterior-most cat was near fully digested, while the other two cats were intact.

Australia's mammal fauna has undergone systematic declines across most of the continent and direct predation by introduced predators (i.e., feral cats; red foxes) is widely considered a key threatening process (Short and Smith 1994. *J. Mammal.* 75:288–297). Populations of some native predators have clearly shifted to prey on comparatively abundant introduced mammals (e.g., rabbits, house mice; Heard et al. 2004. *Austral Ecol.* 29:446–460). However, although feral cats have played an important role in the decline of many native species, they have not been considered as potential prey for many native predators. This observation suggests that feral cats, which are relatively abundant and widespread throughout Australia, could be a significant food resource for some large native predators, such as *A. melanocephalus*.



FIG. 1. Road-killed *Aspidites melanocephalus* on the Gibb River Road, Western Australia, with three *Felis catus* it had consumed.

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BOA CONSTRICTOR (Boa Constrictor). DIET. *Boa constrictor* is an opportunist and generalist predator occurring throughout Central and South America (Henderson et al. 1995. *Herpetol. Nat. Hist.* 3:15–27). Its diet includes mainly mammals, reptiles, and birds (Pizzato et al. 2009. *Amphibia-Reptilia* 30:533–544; Bernarde