

MICRURUS DECORATUS (Decorated Coralsnake). DIET. Coral snakes (*Micrurus* spp.) typically feed on elongated vertebrates, including amphisbaenians, snakes, legless lizards, and caecilians (Campbell and Lamar 2004. The Venomous Reptiles of the Western Hemisphere. Vol. 1. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, New York. 476 pp.). The last have been reported as prey for several coralsnake species (e.g., Campbell and Lamar, *op. cit.*; Horan et al. 2011. Herpetol. Rev. 42:294–295; Huber and Hödl 2010. Herpetol. Rev. 41:484; Saporito 2007. Herpetol. Rev. 38:199). The distribution of *Micrurus decoratus* is limited to the Atlantic Forest of southeastern and southern Brazil, usually in mid-elevation montane areas (Campbell and Lamar, *op. cit.*; Marques 2002. Amphibia-Reptilia 23:228–232). The two published surveys on the diet of this species (Marques, *op. cit.*; Terribile and Silva Jr. 2005. Herpetol. Rev. 36:457–458) reported only amphisbaenians and caecilians as prey. The latter were identified as *Siphonops* sp. in both studies. Here we report an additional case of *M. decoratus* feeding on a caecilian, and the first in which the caecilian prey was identified to species.

On 12 September 2010, two of us (DV and CCS) recovered a dead male *M. decoratus* (SVL = 510 mm; tail length = 35 mm) from a road at Theodoro de Oliveira (22.373889°S, 42.556667°W, datum: SAD 69; elev. ca. 1100 m), municipality of Nova Friburgo, state of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The snake's body had been completely flattened by the passing of cars, but we noticed a piece of a small caecilian protruding from its ruptured venter. Later, we dissected the snake and recovered the remaining pieces of the caecilian, which was identified as a *Siphonops hardyi*. The snake and its prey were deposited in the reptile collection of the Museu Nacional, Rio de Janeiro (MNRJ 19859). *Siphonops hardyi* is a relatively widespread caecilian species in southeastern Brazil, being found both in lowland and in montane sites (Maciel et al. 2009. Check List 5:919–921). To our knowledge, this is the first confirmed report of *S. hardyi* as prey of a coralsnake.

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OXYBELIS FULGIDUS (Green Vinesnake). DIET. *Oxybelis fulgidus* occurs from Mexico to Argentina and is common in the Brazilian Amazon. It is an arboreal ambush predator, feeding mainly on lizards and medium to small passerine birds (Martins and Oliveira 1998. Herpetol. Nat. Hist. 6:78–150; Scartozzoni et al. 2009. S. Am. J. Herpetol. 4:81–89). On 19 May 2011, an *O. fulgidus* (ca. 2 m total length) was seen in a young avocado tree (*Persea americana*) in the Maracarana community, along the Uatumã river, south of the Balbina Dam, Brazilian Amazon (2.21°S, 58.83°W; datum NAD83/WGS84). The snake's presence was noticed only after it caught a *Sturnella militaris* (Red-breasted Blackbird) by the neck, causing the bird to emit loud alarm



FIG. 1. *Oxybelis fulgidus* consuming its prey (*Sturnella militaris*) head-first after placing it on a horizontal branch.

calls. The bird survived for approximately 5 min. and was subsequently consumed headfirst by the snake (Fig. 1). This is the first record of *S. militaris* in the diet of *O. fulgidus*.

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OXYBELIS FULGIDUS (Green Vinesnake). DIET. *Oxybelis fulgidus* is a diurnal arboreal snake that forages among the lower strata of trees and shrubs (Martins and Oliveira 1998. Herpetol. Nat. Hist. 6:78–150). The diet for this species is known to consist primarily of birds and lizards (Beebe 1946. Zoologica 31:11–52; Cunha and Nascimento 1978. Publ. Avul. Mus. Par. Emílio Goeldi 31:1–218; Dixon and Soini 1986. Milw. Publ. Mus. Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Scartozzoni et al. 2009. S. Am. J. Herpetol. 4:81–89). At 1409 h on 1 March 2008, we observed an adult female *O. fulgidus* (INPA-H 21228; SVL = 1170 mm; 250 g) capturing a *Columbina passerina* (Common Ground Dove; 35 g) in a fragment of terra firme forest, in the Parque Residencial Acariquara II, municipality of Manaus, Amazonas, Brazil (03.08433°S, 59.96106°W; datum WGS 84). The snake was seen falling from a shrub with the bird in its jaws but remained anchored to the shrub by its tail, about 1 m off the ground. The snake remained holding the bird by the head for ca. 30 min, until it stopped moving. The long time being held could be associated with envenomation of the prey, a common behavior of opisthoglyphous snakes (Kardong 1982. Mem. Inst. Butantan 46:105–118). Soon afterwards, the snake began swallowing the bird head first (Fig. 1). The available literature reports *O. fulgidus* preying on the bird genera *Pipra*, *Thraupis*, *Volatinia*, *Dendrocincla*, *Carduelis*, *Elaenia*, and *Monasa* (Martins and Oliveira, *op.cit.*; Scartozzoni et al., *op.cit.*). This is the first report of *O. fulgidus* preying on birds of the genus *Columbina*.