



FIG. 1. Bifurcated tail in *Lygosoma albopunctata* from Odisha, India.

Catalogue of the Lizards in the British Museum [Nat. Hist.] III. Lacertidae, Gerrhosauridae, Scincidae, Anelytropsidae, Dibamidae, Chamaeleontidae. Printed by the Trustees of the British Museum, Taylor & Francis, London. 575 pp.; Boulenger 1890. The Fauna of British India, including Ceylon and Burma - Reptilia and Batrachia. Taylor & Francis, London. 541 pp.; Smith 1935. Fauna of British India, including Ceylon and Burma. Vol. II - Sauria. Taylor & Francis, London. xiii + 440pp.; Das 2010. A Field Guide to the Reptiles of South-east Asia. New Holland Publications, London, UK. 376 pp.; Geissler et al. 2011. Biologia 66:1159). Bifid tails are an abnormality resulting from incomplete caudectomy when the tail is partially broken and does not separate completely from the body, but enough damage has been caused such that new tail growth begins (Gandla and Srinivasulu 2015. Taprobanica 7:263–265). Among Indian scincids, bifid tails have been documented in *Eutropis carinata*, *E. allapalensis*, and *E. bibronii* (Brindley 1898. J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc. 11:680–689; Vyas 2016. IRCF Rept. Amphib. 23:108–109; Ghosh and Banerjee 2019. Herpetol. Rev. 50:573–574).

On 13 March 2019 at 0735 h, an adult *Lygosoma albopunctata* was found basking in grassy habitat at Takatpur, Baripada, Odisha, India (21.92150°N, 86.777479°E; WGS 84), with a bifurcated tail with the new segment the same length as the original tail (ca. 5 mm). Total length of the individual was ca. 70 mm (33.5–36.5 mm SVL). Based on pattern, shape and scalation, the right bifurcation appeared to be original. The lizard was in good condition without other deformities or injuries. The presence of a bifurcated tail did not seem to have affected its welfare. This is the first report of bifurcation in *L. albopunctata*.

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MEDIODACTYLUS DANILEWSKII (Mediterranean Thin-toed Gecko). **DIET.** Data on the diet for lizards in the genus *Mediodactylus* are relatively scarce, but they are known to feed on generally soft bodied or small arthropods in the order Diptera, Hymenoptera, Lepidoptera, Coleoptera, Araneae, and the suborder Heteroptera (Düen et al. 2017. ISEAB, Minsk, Belarus. 508 pp.; Mollov and Boyadzhiev 2018. Ecol. Balkan. 10:25–37). The preference of small-bodied geckos to prey on soft-bodied and small species



FIG. 1. *Mediodactylus danilewskii* feeding on a male Mediterranean Katydid (*Phaneroptera nana*) in Shumen, Bulgaria.

is likely related to reduced bite force from their skull morphology (Herrel et al. 2007. Integr. Comp. Biol. 47:107–117; Handschuh et al. 2019. J. Exp. Biol. 222:198291).

At 2110 h on 3 August 2019 in the town of Shumen, northeast Bulgaria (43.27843°N, 26.92027°E; WGS 84; 237 m elev.) we observed an adult *M. danilewskii* (ca. 34 mm SVL) feeding on an adult male *Phaneroptera nana* (Mediterranean Katydid; Fig. 1). We did not observe the prey capture event, but watched it transport and consume the prey. No prey killing or shaking activities were detected and after 16 min the gecko disappeared from our sight still holding the katydid. The katydid was an adult with an estimated total length 15 mm (Iorio et al 2019. Grasshoppers and Crickets of Italy: A Photographic Field Guide to all the Species, WBA Handbooks 10, Verona. 579 pp.). We used ImageJ to estimate the body length from the tip of the snout and the ventral base of the lizard's tail using the metal hook for scale (see Schneider et al 2012. Nat. Meth. 9:671–675).

This observation is noteworthy for two reasons. First, to our knowledge this is the first record of *M. danilewskii* preying on an orthopteran. Second, the katydid's estimated length is almost 50% of the body length of the lizard, suggesting this gecko can take large prey. Despite the limitation to subdue their victims by biting, some small lizards are able to kill relatively large prey—for this, they use a series of immobilizing manipulations (see Natchev et al. 2015 Contr. Zool. 84:13–23).

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PHRYNOSOMA CORONATUM (Coast Horned Lizard). **CLIMBING BEHAVIOR.** During a radio-telemetry study of *Phrynosoma coronatum* in the tropical dry forests near Sierra Las Cacachilas, Municipality of La Paz, Baja California Sur, Mexico (24.05423°N, 110.06377°W; WGS 84; 284 m elev.), we encountered an adult male *P. coronatum* (98.9 mm SVL) on a top of a small Cardon Cactus (*Pachycereus pringlei*). We observed the lizard at 0628 h, on 12 September 2016, perched on the cactus ca. 28.4 cm above ground (Fig. 1), under a Matacora Tree (*Jatropha cuneata*).



FIG. 1. General view where *Phrynosoma coronatum* was found perching on a top of a Cardon Cactus (*Pachycereus pringlei*) in Baja California Sur, Mexico.

This scansorial behavior is unusual in *Phrynosoma* (Sherbrooke 2003. Introduction to Horned Lizards of North America. University of California Press, Berkeley, California. 178 pp.), and to our knowledge has only been described in *P. cornutum*. Whitford and Bryant (1979. Ecology 60:686–694) reported climbing up to 0.5 m in *P. cornutum* into low plants (*Yucca elata* or *Ephedra trifurca*), during the hottest part of the day to avoid thermal stress. We rule out climbing for thermoregulation in our observation because of the time of day and the lizard's body temperature (23°C) and environmental temperatures (substrate temperature = 22.4°C, air temperature at 1 cm above ground = 22°C). Instead, we suspect this lizard may have climbed up the young spine covered cactus to avoid nocturnal predators such as snakes (Paulissen and Harvey 1985. Herpetol. Rev. 16:27; Sherbrooke 2003, *op. cit.*). To our knowledge, this is the first report of climbing in *P. coronatum*.

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SCELOPORUS CONSOBRINUS (Prairie Lizard). SAUROPHAGY. *Sceloporus consobrinus* (formerly *S. undulatus*) is a terrestrial lizard from the family Phrynosomatidae which occupies open areas and woodland edges in the south-central region of the United States (Powell et al. 2016. Peterson Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians of Eastern and Central North America. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Boston, Massachusetts. 494 pp.).

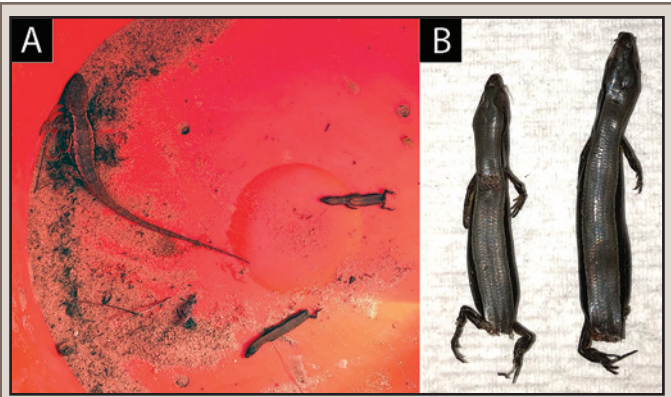


FIG. 1. A) *Sceloporus consobrinus* (Prairie Lizard) in bucket trap with two deceased *Scincella lateralis* (Little Brown Skink) in Bastrop County, Texas, USA; B) dorsal view of the two *S. lateralis* specimens, note both *S. lateralis* are missing their tails and one is missing a hindlimb.

Sceloporus consobrinus is primarily insectivorous and is known to consume dipterans, orthopterans, coleopterans, and arachnids (Lundelius 1957. Evolution 11:65–83; Ferner 1976. Am. Midl. Nat. 96:291–302). Herein, we supplement the known list of prey items for *S. consobrinus* by describing the predation of *Scincella lateralis* by *S. consobrinus*.

On 29 February 2020, during pitfall trap array monitoring in Bastrop County, Texas, USA (30.21601°N, 97.22849°W; WGS 84; 189 m elev.), we found a live *S. consobrinus* (51 mm SVL, 89 mm tail length) in a bucket with two deceased *S. lateralis* (33, 39 mm SVL; Fig. 1A). Both *S. lateralis* were missing their tails and one was missing a hindlimb (Fig. 1B). Upon removal from the pitfall trap, fresh dried blood was seen on the carcass of each *S. lateralis* suggesting the injuries were recent. Although ground skinks are known to tear off and consume the tails and limbs of conspecifics during fights (Lewis 1951. Am. Midl. Nat. 45:232–240; Fitch 1967. In Milstead [ed.], Lizard Ecology, pp. 30–44. University of Missouri Press, Columbia, Missouri), dissection of the two deceased *Scincella* revealed no tail fragments or hindlimbs in their digestive tracts. The arthropods in the bucket were < 1 cm in length and the 12 × 12 cm wooden flotation-refuge block was not moved, and we ruled out invertebrate or avian and/or mammalian predators as the source of the injuries and mortality.

Given that saurophagy and cannibalism are well documented amongst members of the genus *Sceloporus* (Smith 1946. Handbook of Lizards: Lizards of the United States and of Canada. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, New York. 557 pp.; Lemos-Espinal et al. 2003. J. Herpetol. 37:722–725; Leyte-Manrique and Ramirez-Bautista 2010. Southwest. Nat. 55:98–103; Gezon and Bateman 2012. Herpetol. Rev. 43:141; Robbins et al. 2013. Herpetol. Notes 6:523–528), it is likely that the *S. consobrinus* we encountered predated upon the *S. lateralis*. Permitting guidelines precluded sacrifice and dissection of the *S. consobrinus*. At our study site we often observe *S. consobrinus* and *S. lateralis* in syntopy. Therefore, the predator-prey relationship described here likely exists outside of trap-mediated interactions.

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TAKYDROMUS TACHYDROMOIDES (Japanese Grass Lizard). PREDATION. *Takydromus tachydromoides*, a diurnal grass lizard