

LIOLAEMUS GRACILIS (Striped Slender Lizard). PREDATION.

Liolaemus gracilis is a small-sized lizard with a wide distribution from northern Chubut to southern La Rioja provinces, in western Argentina, South America (Cei 1986. Reptiles del Centro, Centro-Oeste y Sur de la Argentina: Herpetofauna de las zonas áridas y semiáridas. Museo Regionale di Scienze Naturali, Florence, Italy. 527 pp.). The species inhabits sandy habitats, and little is known about its biology (Vega and Bellagamba 2005. Cuad. Herp. 18:3–13), including its predators, although snakes have been reported to prey on this lizard (Kozykariski et al. 2010. Herpetol. Rev. 42:80–81). Here we report on a novel, avian predator, the gray-billed shrike-tyrant (*Agriornis micropterus*) on *L. gracilis*.

We deployed a motion-triggered camera (Bushnell Trophy Cam HD Aggressor Low-Glow Trail Camera) programmed to take sequences of one picture and one video every 30 sec for 24 hrs a day to investigate the use of latrines by felines on the San Pablo de Valdes Wildlife Reserve, Biedma Department, Chubut Province, Argentina (42.6951°S, 64.1787°W; WGS 84; 55 m elev.). On 17 April 2023, at 1348 h, the camera trap video (available at <http://dx.doi.org/10.26153/tsw/48964>) captured 8 sec of footage of an *A. micropterus* holding a juvenile *L. gracilis* in its beak (Fig. 1). The recording did not show the capture of consumption events, but we infer the bird did consume the lizard.

To our knowledge this is the first instance of avian predation on *L. gracilis*, although this has been reported in other *Liolaemus* (Perez et al. 2010. Herpetol. Rev. 41:82). Even though consumption was not observed, the Gray-billed Shrike-tyrant is known to feed on vertebrates, including lizards (Salvador and Bodrati 2013. Biologica 16:135–140), so it is not surprising they would also feed on liolaemid lizards.



FIG. 1. *Agriornis micropterus* holding a *Liolaemus gracilis* in its beak in San Pablo de Valdes Wildlife Reserve, Peninsula Valdes, Chubut province, Argentina.

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OPHISAURUS VENTRALIS (Eastern Glass Lizard). DIET.

Ophisaurus ventralis is a large legless lizard found throughout the southeastern United States of America and its diet consists



FIG. 1. *Ophisaurus ventralis* consuming *Plethodon chlorobryonius*.

mainly of invertebrates (Hamilton and Pollack 1961. Herpetologica 27:99–106; Whitaker et al. 2012. Herpetol. Rev. 43:569–571), although small vertebrate prey have also been noted (Hamilton and Pollack 1961, *op. cit.*; Braswell and Palmer 1995. Reptiles and Amphibians of North Carolina. University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, North Carolina. 106 pp.). Here we present a novel amphibian prey item, a salamander, for *O. ventralis* from North Carolina.

On 15 October 2021 at 1805 h we observed an adult *O. ventralis* eating an adult *Plethodon chlorobryonius* (Atlantic Coast Slimy Salamander) along a forested path near a campsite in the Croatan National Forest, Carteret County, North Carolina (34.6942°N, 77.0799°W; WGS 84; 605 m elev.). Initially the *O. ventralis* was found holding *P. chlorobryonius* by the midsection of the body (Fig. 1; video available at <http://dx.doi.org/10.26153/tsw/48709>). Over the course of several minutes, the lizard manipulated the salamander, stopping for a few short pauses, until it swallowed the salamander starting from the midsection. The salamander's tail was moving while being handled, but we are not sure if it was alive or the tail movement was caused by nerve responses.

To our knowledge, this is the first record of *O. ventralis* predating a salamander, and the first record of lizard predation on a slimy salamander more broadly. Although all *Plethodon* salamanders produce skin secretions, the tail of slimy salamanders produce a slimy, sticky secretion when they are disturbed which is a defensive mechanism to deter predators (Highton 1995. Annu. Rev. Ecol. Syst. 26:579–600). Accounts of *P. chlorobryonius* predation are scarce but one report found the species in the digestive tract of a dead *Thamnophis sirtalis* at Croatan National Forest (Hofmann and Hofmann 2018. Herpetol. Rev. 49:91), but other predators of other closely related species in the *P. glutinosus* complex include amphibians, birds, and mammals (Highton 1995, *op. cit.*). We did not see any indication that the skin secretions from *P. chlorobryonius* had an effect on the *O. ventralis*, which leads to further questions about the tolerance of glass lizards for consuming prey with toxic secretions.