the range in parentheses) was 24.26 ± 0.375 (23.88–24.63), 10.37 ± 0.191 (10.17–10.56), 0.93 ± 0.014 (0.92–0.95). After parturition, the mother weighed 27.8 g. Litter sizes of *P. orbiculare* (9, 15) seemed to be smaller than those reported for *P. douglasii* (9–30 young: Goldberg 1971. Herpetologica 27:311–314). However, they were larger in comparison to the average litter size estimated for *P. braconnieri* (4–10 young: Zamudio and Parra-Olea 2000. Copeia 2000:222–229).

The dead neonates were deposited in the herpetological collection of the FES Zaragoza, UNAM. The rest of the specimens were released at the capture location.

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***PHYMATURUS PALLUMA* (High Mountain Lizard). DIET.** *Phymaturus palluma* is a medium-sized, saxicolous, viviparous, and herbivorous lizard that inhabits the Altoandina phytogeographic province in the Andes Highlands, Argentina. Populations are restricted to rocky outcrops, and their diet is based on shrub vegetation like *Artemisia* and *Ephedra* (Videla 1983. Deserta 7:192– 202). During October 2014 (austral spring), we observed and recorded individuals of *P. palluma* eating small bites of soil and licking rocks (Fig. 1) at the Aconcagua Provincial Park, Mendoza, Argentina (32.8453°S, 69.7619°W, WGS 84; 2480 m elev.). Geophagy has been reported in other herbivorous lizards such as hatchlings of *Iguana iguana*, in which it has been demonstrated that this type of ingestion is related to the transfer of cellulytic soil bacteria that are utilized in the gut for the effective degradation of plant materials (Troyer 1984. Behav. Ecol. Sociobiol. 14:189–193). However, in *P. palluma* the geophagy and rock-licking behavior was not restricted to hatchlings and occurred in both in juveniles and adults, which suggests that these behaviors are probably related to a nutritive function, more than to the acquisition of symbiotic gut microflora. Moreover, our observations occurred at the start of the active season, following six months of hibernation. Previous studies have recorded soil in stomach contents of *P. punae* (Córdoba et al. 2015. Rev. Mex. Biodivers. 86:1004–1013); however, due to the low proportion of soil found, those authors suggested that its consumption was accidental. Our observations show that ingestion of soil in *Phymaturus* lizards is not accidental. The geophagy and rock-licking behavior in *Phymaturus* probably has an important role in supplementing the lizard's herbivorous diet, facilitating the acquisition of macronutrients such as calcium, phosphorus, and sodium, and of micronutrients such as iron, copper, and selenium (Esque et al 1994. *In* Bury and Germano [eds.], Biology of North American Tortoises, pp. 105–112. U.S. Department of Interior National Biological Survey, Fish and Wildlife Research).

FIG. 1. *Phymaturus palluma* licking and eating soil.

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***STENODACTYLUS PETRII* (Anderson's Short-fingered Gecko). REPRODUCTION.** *Stenodactylus petrii* is known to occur in Morocco, Western Sahara, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Israel, Sudan, Senegal, Mauritania, Mali, Libya, Eritrea, and Niger (Bar and Haimovitch 2011. A Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians of Israel. Herlizya, Israel. 245 pp.). *Stenodactylus petrii* begins reproduction in March in captivity (Schleich et al. 1996. Amphibians and Reptiles of North Africa. Koeltz Scientific Books, Koenigstein, Germany. 630 pp.). In this note we add information on *S. petrii* reproduction in Israel from a histological examination of gonadal material from museum specimens.

A sample of 23 *S. petrii* consisting of four adult males (mean SVL = 48.0 mm ± 4.1 SD, range = 43–53 mm), five adult females (mean SVL = 57.4 mm ± 7.2 SD, range = 48–68 mm), one female subadult (SVL = 38 mm) and thirteen unsexed subadults (mean SVL = 27.5 mm ± 2.1 SD, range = 24–31 mm) collected between 1950–2015 in Israel and deposited in the Steinhardt Museum of Natural History, Tel Aviv University, (TAUM), Tel Aviv, Israel was examined. All were collected from the Northern Negev Region: TAUM 574, 6498, 9979, 11937, 12765, 13025, 16134, 16938, 17274, 17281, 17283, 17284, 17286, 17296, 17298, 17300–17305, 17308, 17310, except for TAUM 16938, which was from the Central Negev Region.

A small slit was made in the left side of the abdomen and the left testis was removed from males and the left ovary was removed from females for histological examination. Enlarged ovarian follicles (> 4 mm) or oviductal eggs were counted *in situ*. No histology was done on them. Removed gonads were embedded in paraffin, sections were cut at 5 µm and stained by Harris hematoxylin followed by eosin counterstain. Histology slides were deposited at The Steinhardt Museum of Natural History at Tel Aviv University.

Reproductive activity of males and females of *S. petrii* occurred in spring. *Stenodactylus petrii* males from May (TAUM 16134, 16938) exhibited spermiogenesis in which lumina of the seminiferous tubules were lined by sperm or clusters of metamorphosing spermatids. One male from June (TAUM 9979) was in late spermiogenesis in which the germinal epithelium was reduced and diffuse sperm clusters were present. The one male *S. petrii* from August (TAUM 17296) contained regressed seminiferous tubules in which spermatogonia predominated. The smallest reproductively active male measured 43 mm SVL (TAUM 16938) and was collected in May.

Considering reproduction of *S. petrii* females, ovaries of one female from late March (TAUM 574) and one from late April (TAUM 13205) exhibited early yolk deposition in which basophilic vitellogenic granules were present in the ooplasm. One female from early April (TAUM 11937) contained two oviductal eggs and a concurrent yolking follicle (> 4 mm) in each