

representing the majority of known reptilian hosts (Donaldson et al., *op. cit.*). We herein report the first record of ectoparasitism by *O. turicata* on *C. pyrrhus* in the Tinajas Altas Mountains (TAs), Yuma County, Arizona, USA.

On 15 May 2010 at approximately 1816 h, we captured a male *C. pyrrhus* (total length = 84.4 cm) in the southern range of the TAs (32.2748°N, 114.060°W; WGS84). The TAs reside within the Barry M. Goldwater Range West located in the Lower Colorado River Desertscrub subdivision of the Sonoran Desert. The topography is primarily comprised of granite rocks accompanied by a diverse array of vegetation. During primary examination of the rattlesnake, we observed two ticks along the dorsal side of the specimen, which we later identified as *O. turicata*.

Ectoparasitism on *C. pyrrhus* has previously been documented (Schuett et al. 2016. In Schuett et al. [eds.], Rattlesnakes of Arizona: Species Accounts and Natural History, pp. 333–394. ECO Publishing, Rodeo, New Mexico), although the ticks were not identified to species. However, the closely related *C. mitchellii* is a known host species of *O. turicata* (Gutsche and Mutschmann 2011. Herpetol. Rev. 42:287–288). Our documentation of *O. turicata* parasitism on *C. pyrrhus* extends the list of known host species parasitized by *O. turicata*. Our discovery of *O. turicata* in the TAs additionally provides a new endemic location within the parasite's range. *Crotalus pyrrhus* likely encounters *O. turicata* when it seeks refuge underground. Furthermore, an examination of *C. pyrrhus* as a viable reservoir host for the relapsing fever spirochete *Borrelia turicatae* is warranted as *O. turicata* is recognized as a known vector of this zoonotic disease.

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DIADOPHIS PUNCTATUS REGALIS (Regal Ring-necked Snake).

DIET. *Diadophis punctatus* feeds on a variety of prey, including salamanders, frogs, lizards, earthworms, and snakes (Ernst and Ernst 2003. Snakes of the United States and Canada. Smithsonian Books, Washington, DC. 680 pp.). However, there is no documentation of the snake *Hypsiglena jani texana* (Texas Night Snake; formerly *H. torquata*; Mulcahy 2008. Mol. Phylogenet. Evol. 46:1095–1115) in the diet of *D. punctatus* (Ernst and Ernst, *op. cit.*). On 17 April 2016 at 1025 h, I found a dead-on-road *D. punctatus* (SVL = 34.7 cm; tail length = 8.1 cm; 8.0 g without stomach



FIG. 1. Consumption of a *Hypsiglena jani texana* by a *Diadophis punctatus regalidis* in west Texas.

contents; Fig. 1) on TX highway 349, 4.5 road miles S TX FM 2400, Terrell Co., Texas, USA (30.533780°N, 101.89817°W; WGS84). The snake was recently hit by a vehicle, exposing a portion of a partially digested *H. jani* (SVL = 10.3 cm; tail length = 2.6 cm; 1.1 g; Fig. 1). Vouchers of *D. punctatus* (TNHC 98140) and *H. torquata* (TNHC 98141) are deposited in the Division of Herpetology, Biodiversity Collections, Department of Integrative Biology, University of Texas at Austin. This is the first documented predation of *H. jani* by *D. punctatus*.

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DRYMARCHON MELANURUS EREBENNUS (Texas Indigo Snake). DEFENSIVE BEHAVIOR / DEATH-FEIGNING.

Thanatosis (death-feigning) is a defensive behavior best known in *Heterodon* (hog-nosed snakes), but is widely reported from many other snake genera. Thanatosis is commonly reported for *Drymarchon couperi* (Eastern Indigo Snake) and recent studies have investigated the causes of this behavior (Bauder et al. 2015. Herpetol. Conserv. Biol. 10:559–571). At 1653 h on 16 November 2016, a *D. melanurus erebennus* was encountered in Hidalgo County, Texas, USA (26.204583°N, 98.384349°W; WGS84) and began death-feigning behavior. The event was documented by video (WEJ and MO), now accessioned into the Amphibian and Reptile Diversity Research Center at the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA DC8747 and UTA DC8748). The individual initially loosely coiled and became immobile. It was then manipulated by hand and would reposition to remain venter down, but was otherwise immobile. The snake also distorted its jaws to a partially gaped display. Temperatures were not excessive for the region (28.8°C) nor exceptional for the time of year in South Texas. We are unaware of previous reports of this behavior in *D. m. erebennus*. MRJF has encountered more than 100 individuals across four decades and has not observed this behavior in this species before. Fieldwork was conducted under a Scientific Permit for Research [SPR-0913-130] to Mayra Oyervides by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

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ENHYDRIS SUBTAENIATA (Mekong Mud Snake). DIET.

Enhydris subtaeniata belongs to the Homalopsidae, rear-fanged, aquatic snakes that occur widely throughout much of South Asia. However, *E. subtaeniata* is restricted to the Korat Basin and surrounding Mekong River drainages (Lukoschek et al. 2011. Ecol. Evol. 1:330–342). It inhabits muddy freshwater habitats including agricultural wetlands and primarily preys upon frogs and fish (Karns et al. 2005. Trop. Nat. Hist. 5:73–90). However, the species of prey consumed by *E. subtaeniata* and its predation behavior remains scarcely documented. Here we document a predation attempt made by *E. subtaeniata* on a *Barbonymus gonionotus* (Silver Barb).

At 0137 h on 26 November 2016 (14.3052°N, 101.5798°E, WGS 84; 266 m elev.), we observed an adult *E. subtaeniata* (total length = 626 cm; 192.6 g) consuming a juvenile *B. gonionotus* (lateral length = 9.6 cm) on the muddy bank of a shallow flowing