

This is also the first known instance of colubrid predation on *V. nebulosus*, whose biology is poorly studied. This monitor is an adept climber and especially juveniles and sub-adults are arboreal, using cavities in trees for hiding during the day and sleeping at night (Manthey and Grossmann 1997, *op. cit.*; Grismer 2011. Lizards of Peninsular Malaysia, Singapore and their Adjacent Archipelagos. Edition Chimaira, Frankfurt am Main. 728 pp.; HB, unpubl. data). Under such circumstances *B. dendrophila* s.l. may prey nocturnally on young *V. nebulosus*.

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BOTHROPS AMMODYTOIDES (Yararáñata). DIET. *Bothrops ammodytoides* is a medium-sized pitviper endemic to Argentina that inhabits arid and semiarid rocky and sandy areas from sea level to more than 3000 m (Carrasco et al. 2010. Amphibia-Reptilia 31:323–338). The diet of this species is known to include small vertebrates such as lizards and less commonly, rodents (Ceí 1993. Reptiles del Noroeste, Nordeste y Este de Argentina. Herpetofauna de las Selvas Subtropicales, Puna y Pampas. Mus. Reg. Sci. Nat. Torino. 945 pp.; Martins et al. 2002. In Schuett et al. [eds.], The Biology of Pitvipers, pp. 307–308. Eagle Mountain Publishing, Eagle Mountain, Utah; Gomez Ales et al. 2013. Herpetol. Rev. 44:157). Here, we report predation on *Stenocercus pectinatus* by *B. ammodytoides*.

At 1930 h on 17 December 2019, we found a subadult of *B. ammodytoides* that had died while eating an *S. pectinatus* (Fig. 1) in the southern part of Mendoza province, Argentina (35.9663°S, 66.9405°W; WGS 84), corresponding to the Monte Desert ecoregion. The habitat was semiarid *Hyalis argentea* grasslands, with only a few bushes and small trees, like Caldén trees (*Prosopis caldenia*) and Chañar (*Geoffroea decorticans*). The cause of the snake's death was not clear, but it could have been killed by a predator while eating its prey or suffocated during ingestion.



FIG. 1. Dorsal view of the *Bothrops ammodytoides* preying upon a *Stenocercus pectinatus*.

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BOTHROPS ASPER (Terciopelo). DIET/OPHIOPHAGY. The diet of young *Bothrops asper* consists of anurans, lizards, and arthropods, while adults feed primarily on small mammals, such as rodents and opossums (Savage 2002. The Amphibians and Reptiles of Costa Rica: A Herpetofauna between Two Continents, between Two Seas. University of Chicago Press, Chicago, Illinois. 934 pp.). Sasa et al. (2009. Toxicon 54: 904–922) provide a detailed analysis of the euryphagous diet of this species, adding birds and snakes. To date, known snake prey of *B. asper* include *Erythrolamprus bizona*, *Ninia sebae*, *Ninia atrata*, and cases of cannibalism in juveniles (Buttenhoff and Vogt 1995. Herpetol. Rev. 26:146–147). Mendoza-Roldan and Lucero (2011. Herpetotropicos 5:107–109) further register a juvenile *B. asper* preying on a neonate *Porthidium lansbergii* in the dry forest of northern Colombia. Herein, we report two other species of snakes in the diet of *B. asper*.

On 22 April 2020, at 1430 h, in the Isthmian Pacific moist forest region of San Josecito, Uvita, Puntarenas, San José Province, Costa Rica (9.2253°N, 83.7312°W; WGS 84; 391 m elev.), a dead *B. asper* was found in a stream. While clearing away the decomposing snake (ca. 92 cm total length [TL]) with a snake hook, the venter ripped and an ingested snake was observed. After a closer look and a few photographs, the ingested snake was



FIG. 1. Subadult female of *Bothrops asper* and ingested *Tantilla supracincta* from Costa Rica.

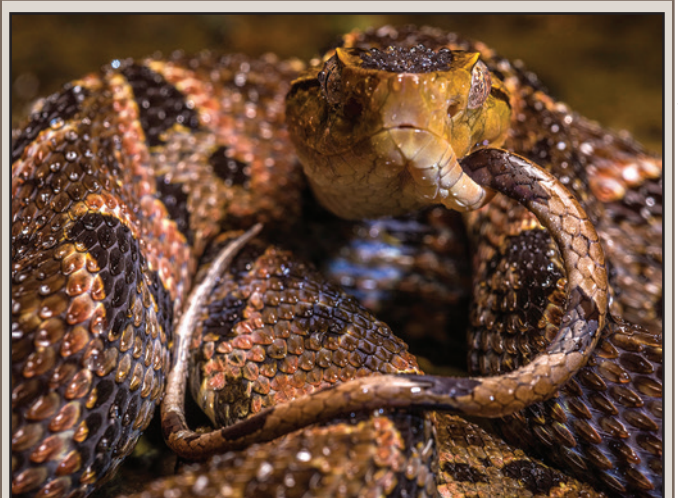


FIG. 2. *Bothrops asper* feeding on *Dipsas andiana* in Ecuador.