***SCELOPORUS TRISTICHUS* (Plateau Fence Lizard) and *SCELOPORUS MAGISTER* (Desert Spiny Lizard). PREDATION.** On 25 August 2011 at 1838 h along the Virgin River in Zion National Park, Kane Co., Utah (37.205827°N, 112.978917°W, elev. 1211 m), one of us (CG) observed, photographed, and recorded video of an adult male *Sceloporus tristichus* predating a hatchling *S. magister* (*sensu* Leaché and Mulcahy 2007. Mol. Ecol. 16:5216–5233). The hatchling was being consumed tail-end first and being beat against a rock several times while in mouth of the adult *S. tristichus*. These two species commonly co-occur along stream habitats in Utah (Tinkle 1976. Herpetologica 32:1–6). There have been accounts of *S. consobrinus* (as *S. undulatus hyacinthinus*) predating other lizards in captivity (Groves 1971. J. Herpetol. 5:205), and also cannibalism within *S. magister* (Cardwell 1994. Herpetol. Rev. 3:121–122). However, this is the first published account of *S. tristichus* predating *S. magister*.

Digital video of this predation event is available. For those interested please contact the lead author.

FIG. 1. Adult male *Sceloporus tristichus* consuming a hatchling *S. magister* tail-end first.

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***SPHENOMORPHUS INCOGNITUS* (Brown Forest Skink). PARENTAL CARE.** Parental care is common in some terrestrial vertebrates, such as birds and mammals, but is much rarer in reptiles. About 140 reptile species have been reported to exhibit parental care, but many of these records are unconfirmed due to a lack of direct evidence of such behavior (Huang 2006. Anim. Behav. 72:791–795). Crocodilians are the most well-documented group of reptiles that provide parental care (Shine 1988. *In* C. Gans and R. B. Huey [eds.], Biology of the Reptilia, Volume 16, Ecology B: Defense and Life History, pp. 275–329. Alan R. Liss, New York), but relatively few squamate reptiles exhibit such behavior (Huang 2006, *op. cit.*, Huang and Wang 2009. Ethology 115:273–279; O'Connor and Shine 2004. Anim. Behav. 68:1361–1369). Here we describe an observation of nest defense, a form of parental care, by the skink *Sphenomorphus incognitus*.

Sphenomorphus incognitus is a small (ca. 8 cm SVL), surface-dwelling skink distributed from southern China to Taiwan. This oviparous skink produces 3–6 eggs per clutch, and reproduces from spring to summer (Huang 2010. Zool. Stud. 49:779–788). On

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FIG. 1. Brown Forest Skink (*Sphenomorphus incognitus*) biting a Taiwanese Kukri Snake (*Oligodon formosanus*).

28 August 2008 at 1600 h on Orchid Island, Taitung County, Taiwan (22.0333°N, 121.5666°E), we observed a female *S. incognitus* (8.5 cm SVL) defending its nest from predation by a Taiwanese Kukri Snake (*Oligodon formosanus*; 41 cm SVL). *O. formosanus* is a reptile egg specialist, and regularly eats the eggs of other skink species in the area (e.g., *Eutropis longicaudata*; Huang 2006, *op. cit.*). Female *E. longicaudata* commonly protect their eggs from predation by viciously attacking *O. formosanus*, which causes the snake to leave the nest site (Huang 2006, *op. cit.*). In the current observation, we observed the snake attempting to eat a clutch of *S. incognitus* eggs buried in the soil. The female *S. incognitus* bit the snake at mid body several times over a period of a few minutes (Fig. 1), and by doing so was presumably attempting to deter the snake from eating the eggs. However, this attempt was unsuccessful, because after digging up the nest we discovered that the entire clutch had been eaten by the snake. Despite our long-term studies on Orchid Island (2001–2010), this is our first observation of *S. incognitus* defending a nest from predation. Unlike *E. longicaudata* (which reaches a SVL of ca. 12 cm), the smaller *S. incognitus* was unable to protect its eggs from snake predation, possibly because the snake was undeterred by bites from such a small skink. We suspect that this skink had recently laid the eggs, and was still in the area when the snake predated the nest, explaining the absence of other observations of similar behavior. Otherwise, most oviparous squamates bury their eggs, which makes it difficult to document instances of parental care.

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***TROPIDURUS HISPIDUS* (Calango). SAUROPHAGY.** *Tropidurus hispidus* has a wide geographical distribution, mainly in open landscapes of northeastern South America (Rodrigues 1987. Arq. Zool. 31:105–230). *T. hispidus* is considered a generalist predator that preys on several arthropod taxa as well as plant items (Kolodiuk et al. 2010. S. Am. J. Herpetol. 5:35–44; Van Sluys et al. 2004. J. Herpetol. 38:606–611; Vitt 1995. Occ. Pap. Oklahoma Mus. Nat. Hist. 01:01–29; Vitt et al. 1996. J. Trop. Ecol. 12:81–101).