

The lizard prey was sufficiently digested, and missing part of the tail, such that calculation of prey/predator mass ratio can only be approximated (0.24, post preservation). Nevertheless, it is a large prey item for such a diminutive snake (Fig. 1) and *Elgaria* spp. are capable of formidable antipredator bites. We have observed (JRM, unpubl. data) a variety of obligate constricting snakes (e.g., *Lampropeltis* spp.) to become incapacitated, or badly injured, by the antipredatory bite-and-hold response of *E. multicarinata*; furthermore, these observations of *Lampropeltis* spp. included snakes proportionally much larger than is this *D. punctatus* with respect to the intended prey items. All points considered together, we conclude that *D. punctatus* in central California are capable of subduing robust squamate prey species, supporting the suggestion by O'Donnell et al. (*op. cit.*) that venom evolved in this species to facilitate subjugation of larger prey items.

The variety of prey items and feeding behavior and contradictory reports of effects of bites delivered to humans by *Diadophis* suggest that considerable geographic variation in the diet, behavior, and perhaps oral secretions of this snake exists. We emphasize the observation by O'Donnell et al. (*op. cit.*) that snakes referable to *D. p. edwardsii* lack the enlarged rear fangs that are present in the other putative subspecies. We suggest that carefully documented feeding trials involving snakes from various regions and presented with a variety of types of potential prey would reveal a surprising diversity of results perhaps consistent with the complex evolutionary history of these snakes (Fontanella et al. 2007. *Mol. Phylog. Evol.* 46:1049–1070; Fontanella and Siddall 2010. *Zool. J. Linn. Soc.* 158:629–640).

We thank S. S. Sweet and M. Beas-Moix for access to the UCSB herpetological collections, H. W. Greene for encouraging us to present our observations, C. D. Anthony for field assistance, and C. R. Feldman and J. D. Willson for useful comments.

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DIADOPHIS PUNCTATUS (Ring-necked Snake). **DIET.** *Diadophis punctatus* is a fossorial species that ranges across much of the United States into southeastern Canada (Ernst and Ernst 2003. *Snakes of the United States and Canada*. Smithsonian Books, Washington, DC. 668 pp.). On 3 June 2011, I found a

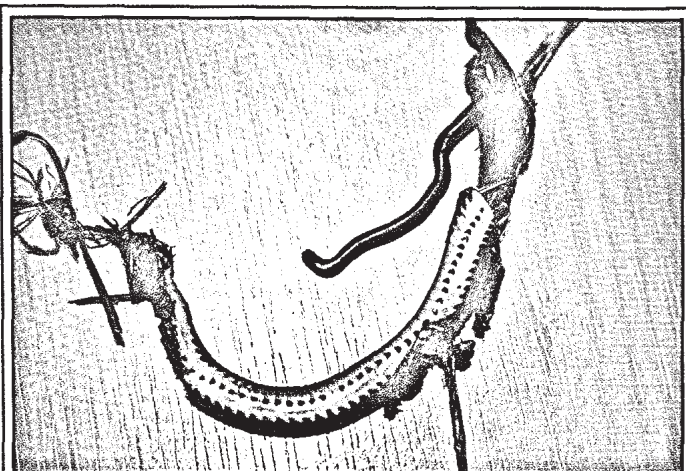


FIG. 1. A *Diadophis punctatus* (Ring-necked Snake) that had consumed a *Ramphotyphlops braminus* (Brahminy Blindsnake), discovered after being hit by a lawn mower in Naples, Florida, USA.

dead *D. punctatus* in a recently mowed yard at 5823 Spanish Oaks Lane, Naples, Florida, USA (26.265215°N, 81.724880°W; datum WGS84). The *D. punctatus* was apparently hit by a mower and upon discovery I noticed a prey item, a *Ramphotyphlops braminus* (Brahminy Blindsnake), an established exotic species in Florida. Given the condition of the *D. punctatus*, it was likely killed the same day it was found. The lack of significant digestion of the *R. braminus* suggests it was recently consumed (Fig. 1).

Diadophis punctatus primarily feeds on small vertebrates, including other native snake species and conspecifics (Ernst and Ernst, *op. cit.*). While other fossorial snake species have been documented to consume *R. braminus*, such as *Stilosoma extenuatum* (Short-tailed Snake; Godley et al. 2008. *Herpetol. Rev.* 39:473–474) and *Micrurus fulvius* (Harlequin Coralsnake; Krysko et al. 2010. *Herpetol. Rev.* 41:501–502), this observation represents the first recorded occurrence of *D. punctatus* consuming a *R. braminus*.

I thank Kenneth Krysko and Kevin Enge for assistance.

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EPICRATES CRASSUS (Eastern Rainbow Boa). **DIET.** *Epicrates crassus* occurs in open grassland habitats in Bolivia, central Brazil, Paraguay, and northern Argentina (Passos and Fernandes 2008. *Herpetol. Monogr.* 22:1–30). In Paraguay most modern records are from the Cerrado zone and it is classed as vulnerable at the national level (Motte et al. 2011. *Cuad. Herpetol.* 23:5–18). It is considered to be the most terrestrial member of the genus and feeds mainly on small mammals, and occasionally birds (Pizzatto et al. 2009. *Amphibia-Reptilia* 30:533–544). At ca. 2100 h on 3 March 2014, a mature female *E. crassus* (estimated SVL = 972 mm) was found dead, apparently deliberately decapitated, on a dirt road ca. 8 km from Santa Rosa del Aguaray, Depto. San Pedro, Paraguay (23.8363°N, 56.3899°W; datum WGS84). The surrounding habitat consisted of wet grassland with nearby eucalyptus plantations. The snake had ingested an adult female *Cavia aperea* (Pampas Cavy; Mammalia: Caviidae; alcohol specimen CZPLT-M 438) with greatest length of skull 23 mm. *Cavia aperea* is a new prey species for *E. crassus* and with mean head–body length of 274 mm (Asher et al. 2004. *J. Mammal.* 85:788–796), and mean body mass of 523.6 g (Künzl and Sachser 1999. *Horm. Behav.* 35:28–37), is larger than other prey items previously reported (Pizzatto et al. 2009, *op. cit.*). The *Epicrates* specimen is deposited at the Para La Tierra Colección Científica housed at Reserva Natural Laguna Blanca, Departamento San Pedro, specimen number CZPLT-H 697.

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HETERODON PLATIRHINOS (Eastern Hog-nosed Snake). **REPRODUCTION / NEST SITE FIDELITY.** Nest site fidelity is poorly documented in snakes, and in *Heterodon platirhinos* it has been documented only in Ontario, Canada, near the species' northernmost range limit (Cunnington and Cebek 2005. *Am. Midl. Nat.* 154:474–478). Here, we present evidence of nest site fidelity of *H. platirhinos* from a population in Saratoga Co., New York, USA. As part of a radio-telemetry study, we observed a large female (SVL = 78 cm, mass = 618 g) nesting in a utility right-of-way (characterized by an open canopy and early successional plant