

Predation by the green vinesnake *Oxybelis fulgidus* on the diving lizard *Uranoscodon superciliosus*

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The vinesnake *Oxybelis fulgidus* (Daudin, 1803) is an arboreal, diurnal colubrid widely distributed from southern Mexico to tropical South America (Uetz et al., 2020). This snake has been described as both a sit-and-wait predator (Henderson and Binder, 1980; Fischer and Gascon, 1996) and an active forager (Martins and Oliveira, 1998; Scartozzoni et al., 2009), with a diet restricted to lizards and passerine birds (Scartozzoni et al., 2009; Lizano, 2010; Santos et al., 2011; Viana et al., 2014; Smith et al., 2018; Brown et al., 2019; Carbajal-Márquez et al., 2019). The 15 lizard species recorded as prey of *O. fulgidus* belong to eight different families, including Corytophanidae, Gekkonidae, Iguanidae, Phrynosomatidae, Polychrotidae, Tropicuridae, Scincidae, and Teiidae.

On 15 April 2016 at midday (12:00 h) we observed an *O. fulgidus* preying on a diving lizard, *Uranoscodon superciliosus* (Linnaeus, 1758), on an *apuí* tree (*Ficus* sp.) aerial root in a flooded *várzea* forest in Central Amazonia, 1.5 m above the water surface (Fig. 1A–C). The lizard was being swallowed headfirst, and this process was observed for 25 min. At that time only approximately 5 cm of the lizard's tail remained outside the snake's mouth. The event occurred in Mamirauá Sustainable Development Reserve (3.0552°S, 64.8544°W) near the confluence of the Japurá and Amazon Rivers, Uarini Municipality, Amazonas State, Brazil.

Uranoscodon superciliosus is a tropidurid lizard widely distributed in Amazonia that is commonly found along the edges of streams, rivers, and lakes, where it perches on branches, vines, and aerial roots over the water's surface (Vitt et al., 2008; Faria et al., 2019). It

normally sleeps over water at night and dives into the water to escape from predators (Howland et al., 1990; Vitt et al. 2008). This lizard spends most of its time camouflaged on the vegetation but uses the ground to feed on soil invertebrates (Howland et al., 1990; Gasnier et al., 1994, 1997; Picelli et al., 2019) and to lay its eggs (Roberto et al., 2019).

Even though there is a vast literature on the feeding habits of *O. fulgidus*, this is only the second record of a tropidurid lizard as its prey. Our data also represent the first record of *Uranoscodon* as prey for *O. fulgidus*, thus adding to the knowledge on the trophic interactions involving these two widely distributed, syntopic arboreal squamates.

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Figure 1. Predation by the green vinesnake *Oxybelis fulgidus* on the diving lizard *Uranoscodon superciliosus*. (A) Snake biting the lizard on the head. (B) Initial and (C) middle stages of the swallowing process. Photos by Wezddy Del Toro-Orozco.

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