

The four eggs and two dead hatchlings were deposited in the Colección Zoología Vertebrados, Reptiles (ZVC-R), Facultad de Ciencias, Montevideo as ZVC-R 6080. We thank Diego Nuñez for specimen data.

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**CNEMASPIS** (Oriental Dwarf Geckos). **COMMUNAL OVIPOSITION.** Communal egg-laying is widely reported among squamate reptiles, including many geckos (e.g., Krysko et al. 2003. *Amphibia-Reptilia* 24:390–396; Oda 2004. *Acta Amazonica* 34:331–332). Among South Asian gekkonids, selected species in several genera show this behavior (e.g., Bauer and Das 2000. *J. South Asian Nat. Hist.* 5:25–35; Das 2003. *A Photographic Guide to Snakes and Other Reptiles of India*. New Holland Publishers, London. 144 pp.; Khan and Tasnim 1990. *Herpetologica* 42:146–148), including some members of the genus *Cnemaspis*. In *Cnemaspis*, three species are known to exhibit communal oviposition; *C. kandiana* from Sri Lanka (Deraniyagala 1953. *A Colored Atlas of Some Vertebrates from Ceylon*, Vol. 2, *Tetrapod Reptilia*. The Ceylon Government Press, Colombo. 121 pp.), *C. indica* from the Western Ghats of India (Bhupathy and Nikon 2002. *J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc.* 99:330–332), and *C. baueri* from Peninsular Malaysia (Das and Grismer 2003. *Herpetologica* 59:544–552). Here, we add to previous reports of communal oviposition in *Cnemaspis* with observations from the Western Ghats of southern India.

On 22 September 2004, SB observed three sites with clusters of eggs of *Cnemaspis cf. indraneildasii* in Anashi National Park (ANP). All sites were on partly moss-covered bridge walls above dry or flowing streams under the road connecting Anashi village and Anashi Nature Camp. Eggs were white to off-white in color, translucent, longer than wide (oval), flattened at their wall-attached end, and generally represented three categories; unhatched, recently hatched and previously hatched. Recently hatched eggs typically had only their apical ends broken with most of the egg shell remaining, whereas previously hatched eggs only had basal fragments of the shell attached to the wall. Site 1 (15°00'08"N, 74°13'39"E, datum: WGS84; elev. 540 m) had two clutches: 3 and 2 unhatched eggs within an area 15 cm in diameter with one isolated, recently hatched egg on either side. One unhatched egg was 5.3 mm wide; during measurement, this egg cracked (hence the length was unrecorded) whereupon an apparently healthy fully developed *C. cf. indraneildasii* (12.2 mm SVL, 13.2 mm tail) immediately emerged. At least 12 previously hatched eggs were also located near these unhatched eggs. An adult *C. cf. indraneildasii* and a juvenile *Hemidactylus prashadi* were noticed within 0.5 m and 0.8 m, respectively, on the same wall. Site 2 (15°00'06"N, 74°13'38"E; elev. 540 m) had 3 clutches of 2 recently hatched eggs. Below these eggs were 7 unhatched eggs (1 isolated egg and 3 clutches of 2). At least 10 previously hatched eggs were also located near these eggs. Site 3 (15°00'06"N, 74°13'31"E; elev. 540 m) had 3 separate aggregations of eggs. One aggregation had 3 unhatched eggs (1 isolated egg and a clutch of 2) with another

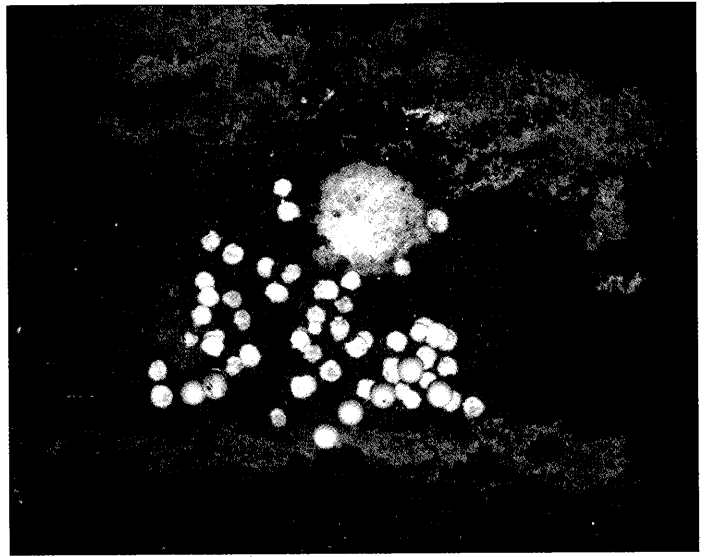


FIG. 1. Egg-laying of *Cnemaspis cf. indraneildasii* in Anashi National Park, Karnataka, India.

clutch of 2 recently hatched eggs below them. Impressions of 2 previously hatched eggs were also present. An adult *C. cf. indraneildasii* was observed within 0.6 m of this cluster. The second aggregation had 4 unhatched eggs (2 single eggs and 1 clutch of 2). Remains of 17 previously hatched eggs were also present near these eggs. The third aggregation had 7 unhatched eggs (5 single eggs in lower right and 1 clutch of 2 in lower right of Fig. 1). The remains of 51 previously hatched eggs were also located all around the unhatched eggs (see Fig. 1). The distances between different categories of eggs were not recorded, but at all 3 sites, eggs were located within a ca. 1 m circle diameter. Egg(s) presumed to represent separate clutches were always laid in distinct clusters with the overall dispersion within a cluster as in Fig. 1. For previously hatched eggs, it was impossible to obtain accurate counts of clutch size as only their basal impressions were left and new eggs were frequently laid over older ones. Isolated egg groups (1–2 eggs) were rarely observed (N = 3) in other parts of ANP.

While studying reptiles in the Sengaltheri area of Kalakkad-Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve (KMTR), Tamil Nadu Forest, NMI observed aggregations *Cnemaspis* eggs. NMI located several *Cnemaspis* egg clusters (2–6 eggs) primarily in leaf litter, decaying logs, on the underside of tree bark, and under small stones during quadrat sampling. However, our description here refers to a site (08°31'45"N, 77°26'39"E; elev. 980 m) that harbored the largest aggregation of *Cnemaspis* eggs recorded from KMTR over the interval 1998–2000. The site was a 10-m wide rocky formation in a dense tree and canopy cover of mixed evergreen forest with minimal undergrowth. Except for ca. 2 months annually, the proximity of the Manimuttar River (15 m away) saturates the substrate. This site was ca. 1.5 m above ground in a narrow (ca. 1.5 cm wide) crevice due to one rock (ca. 1.5 m × 1 m × 2.5 m) sitting on a larger rock. Though the site is humid year-round, the environment in the crevice was not particularly moist. At least 50 unhatched and > 25 hatched eggs were recorded from this site. The area of visibility into the crevice was lined with eggs. Eggs were similar to those observed at ANP; other than *Cnemaspis*, no geckos recorded from KMTR (Ishwar et al. 2001. *Current Sci.* 80:413–418;

Murthy 1992. *Rec. Zool. Surv. India* 91:161–168) are likely to have similar-sized eggs. Only unhatched and previously hatched eggs were observed. Eggs seemed tightly packed into the crevice without obvious pattern, and several shell fragments were seen at the base of the crevice. *Cnemaspis* hatchlings observed in the nest eluded capture as they fled into the crevice when pursued. Three *Cnemaspis* species (*C. indica*, *C. ornata*, and *C. jerdoni*) were recorded in the vicinity with *C. indica* being most abundant.

Egg-laying was not observed, but oviposition by more than one individual is undoubtedly responsible for the large egg aggregations we describe (see Ananjeva and Orlov 1995. *Russian J. Herpetol.* 2:142–147; Bhupathy and Nikon, *op. cit.*). Moreover, the nest site at KMTR may be used by more than one species of *Cnemaspis* (see Krysko et al., *op. cit.*). *Cnemaspis* reproductive ecology is currently poorly described, but communal nesting in the genus may be more common than recorded (SB, NMI, unpubl. data from other areas). Hence, comparative information on the degree of site fidelity, frequency of multiple clutching, incubation time, and breeding season length will be needed to interpret the ecological and evolutionary context of oviposition aggregations.

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#### **CTENOSAURA MELANOSTERNA** (Black-chested Ctenosaur).

**PREDATION.** At 1525 h on 19 July 2005, we saw a large (31.6 cm SVL, 51.5 cm tail, 996 g) *C. melanosterna* fall 4–8 m from the forest canopy on the island of Cayo Menor in the Cayos Cochinos (Islas de la Bahia, Honduras; 16°10'20"N, 86°30'10"W, datum: WGS84; elev. 8 m); a female *Boa constrictor* (133 cm SVL, 15.7 cm tail, 1267 g) was constricting the lizard. From the time the lizard and snake hit the ground, we could see no muscular activity in the lizard (including no obvious signs of respiration). The snake constricted the lizard for 34 min, then released the lizard and remained loosely coiled around it (and essentially motionless) for another 95 min. The snake then began to ingest the lizard, successfully swallowing the head and neck within 9 min. The snake then stopped, and again remained motionless. After 49 min, we placed the snake and lizard in a cloth bag and transported them to the lab. We placed both animals in a plastic storage bin (75 x 40 x 40 cm), hoping that the snake would finish eating the lizard. At 0800 h the next day, the snake and still unresponsive lizard were on opposite sides of the bin. At 1300 h the same day, we returned to the lab to find the snake on one side of the bin and the lizard

alive and alert on the other. The lizard had been unresponsive for at least 21 h. We released the lizard at the point of capture the next day, whereupon it gave many aggressive head-bob displays before walking into the forest with no apparent ill effects.

Besides the observed predation attempt, we have found two adult female *B. constrictor* on Cayo Menor containing adult *C. melanosterna* (> 25 cm SVL). One female boa (117 cm SVL, 1661 g including prey) partially regurgitated a large *C. melanosterna*; the snake subsequently died in captivity. The other female (205 cm SVL, 5300 g including prey), discovered on 20 August 2004, contained a *C. melanosterna* (determined by palpation), and this snake subsequently was recaptured in good condition on 16 July 2005. These observations indicate that *C. melanosterna* might represent important prey for the insular boas. *Ctenosaura melanosterna* is known only from the Cayos Cochinos and Aguan Valley (Departamento de Yoro) in Honduras (Buckley and Axtell 1997. *Copeia* 1997:138–150). Little is known of *C. melanosterna* ecology, and although *B. constrictor* predation on adult *C. pectinata* has been recorded (Lemos-Espinal and Ballinger 1994. *Herpetol. Rev.* 25:26), this is the first report of snake predation on *C. melanosterna*.

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**EUMECES LATICEPS** (Broad-headed Skink). **FRUGIVORY; SEED DISPERSAL.** Most lizard species are exclusively carnivorous, yet herbivorous or omnivorous species are known from 11 lizard families (Cooper and Vitt 2002. *J. Zool.* 257:487–517). Of these, at least 8 families contain frugivorous species. The family Scincidae is one such example with 18 species known to be herbivorous or omnivorous. Furthermore, Cooper and Vitt (*op. cit.*) assert that plant matter may comprise a small component of the diet of many skinks that are primarily carnivorous. *Eumeces laticeps* may be one such species. Although this species typically consumes arthropods, snails, *Anolis* lizards, and even congenics (Vitt and Cooper 1986. *J. Herpetol.* 20: 408–415), it is also the only North American scincid documented to consume fruit. Cooper and Vitt (*op. cit.*) report that *E. laticeps* has been known to eat grapes and berries, but provide no specific information on plant taxa nor viability of ingested seeds. Here we report an instance of frugivory by *E. laticeps*, provide positive identification of the species of fruit consumed, and evidence that this species could function as a seed disperser.

At ca. 1300 h on 10 June 2005, GGS and SMB captured an adult male *E. laticeps* (119 mm SVL, 247 mm TL, 35 g) beneath an abandoned doghouse. This observation was made in a rural setting in North Auburn, Alabama (32°38'55"N, 85°27'17"W, datum: WGS84; elev. 198 m). Upon capture, the lizard passed a fecal pellet which we preserved in formalin. This pellet contained