PHOTOS BY KARLA BELEM

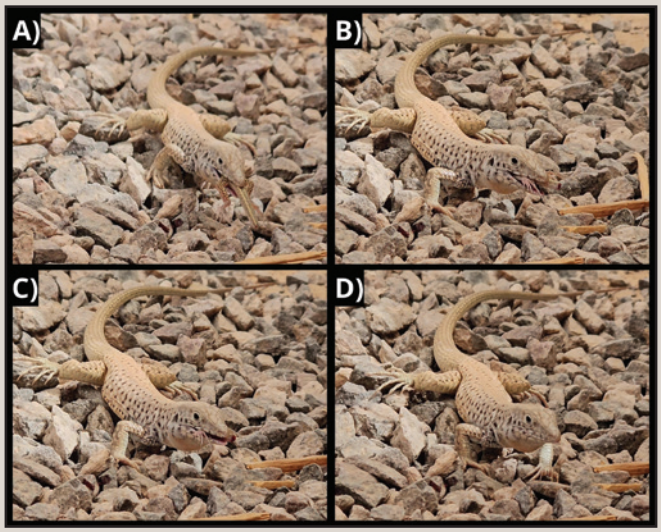

FIG. 1. Still images from a video of a large adult of *Aspidoscelis tigris punctatus* preying on a conspecific juvenile: A) capture of the juvenile; B) biting and chewing on it while positioning for swallowing; C) total ingestion; D) head and neck movements to complete swallowing.

Menorquí d'Estudis, Recerca; Mata et al. 2013. Southwest. Nat. 58:209–215), although saurophagy and cannibalism have been recorded in *A. costatus*, *A. inornatus*, and *A. sexlineatus* (Mitchell 1986. Cannibalism in Reptiles: A Worldwide Review. SSAR Herpetol. Circ. 15:1–37). Cannibalism by an adult on a juvenile has also been recorded in *A. tigris* (Mitchell 1979. Can. J. Zool. 57:1487–1499). Herein, we report the first case of cannibalism in *A. tigris punctatus*, one of the lesser-known subspecies of this widely distributed desert-dwelling species (Walker and Maslin 1965. Univ. Colorado Studies, Ser. Biol. 20:1–8).

On 17 July 2023, we observed an adult *A. t. punctatus* (ca. 100 mm SVL) prey on a juvenile conspecific in Puerto Peñasco, Sonora in northern Mexico (31.3059°N, 113.2736°W; WGS 84; 8 m elev.). The adult *A. t. punctatus* seized the juvenile just behind the head, and immediately the juvenile frantically moved its limbs as it struggled to escape. However, after ca. 1 min all movement ceased. During the struggle the juvenile lost its tail. Once resistance ceased, the adult lizard began to ingest the juvenile headfirst, making slight head movements, biting, and releasing for one minute (Fig. 1A, B). Once swallowed, the adult performed similar movements seven times during ca. 30 sec, retracting its head towards the ground and then raising it. The adult then remained still for a moment, flicked out its tongue, and fled.

While cannibalism has been previously recorded in the genus *Aspidocelis* (Mitchell 1986, *op. cit.*; Güizado et al. 2009. Herpetol. Rev. 40:339), to our knowledge this is the first occurrence documented in the subspecies *A. t. punctatus*. Although cannibalism could be a common strategy in the species for food acquisition, we suggest that it may have the subsidiary effect of reducing interspecific competition.

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***DASIA VITTATA* (Bornean Striped Tree Skink). PREDATION.** *Dasia vittata* is a widespread arboreal skink, known from lowland rainforests, mangrove swamps, and forest edges of Borneo (Das 2004. A Pocket Guide. Lizards of Borneo. Natural History Publications [Borneo], Sdn Bhd, Kota Kinabalu. 83 pp.; Das 2010. A Field Guide to the Reptiles of South-east Asia. New Holland Publishers Ltd., London, UK. 376 pp.). Its diet has been reported to be comprised of invertebrates, mainly ants, although many other arthropods, such as hymenopterans, coleopterans, blattarians, isopterans, arachnids, isopods, and lepidopteran larvae have also been reported (Mori et al. 1995. Herpetol. Nat. Hist. 3:1–14; Goldberg 2012. Hamadryad 36:51–53). Here, we report a novel case of saurophagy in *D. vittata*.

On 12 May 2024 at 1105 h, we observed an adult *D. vittata* (SVL ca. 60 mm) 1.5 m high on a moss-covered trunk of a coconut tree preying on an adult *Hemidactylus frenatus* (ca. 40 mm SVL) in the village of Teck Guan Cocoa (4.4008°N, 118.0161°E; WGS 84; 262 m elev.), Tawau, Sabah, Malaysia (northeast Borneo). The *D. vittata* was biting on the gecko just behind the right side of its head, while perched facing upwards on the tree trunk (Fig. 1). At the time of initial observation, the gecko was noticeably struggling to free itself as the skink shook its prey, but within a few seconds the gecko ceased all movement. Once subdued, the skink climbed 2 m higher up the tree trunk and eventually disappeared from view, presumably to consume the gecko.

To our knowledge this is the first report of saurophagy in *D. vittata* in what was otherwise thought to be an insectivorous skink. Interestingly, *D. vittata* is an entirely diurnal species whereas *H. frenatus* is predominantly nocturnal, although local populations exhibit some diurnal activity (Das, unpubl. data). It's unclear if the skink found the gecko in a diurnal retreat on the tree trunk or both were active prior to our observation.

FIG. 1. An adult *Dasia vittata* biting a *Hemidactylus frenatus* on the trunk of a coconut tree in Sabah, Malaysia.

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***DIBAMUS VORISI*. DIET.** Lizards of the genus *Dibamus* are fossorial, nearly legless and eyeless, and found throughout Southeast Asia, Wallacea, the southern Philippines, and Western Papua (Čerňanský 2019. Zool. J. Linn. Soc. 187:782–799). Little is known about these lizards' natural history and diet, but their anatomical and ecological similarities to other small, fossorial lizards and scolecophidian snakes suggest that they may feed on eggs, larvae, and pupae of eusocial insects; correspondingly, dibamids are often found in the nests of eusocial insects (Kliukin et al. 2023. Zootaxa 5380:3012–320; Krone, pers. obs.). *Dibamus vorisi* is one of ten dibamid species considered "lost" by the IUCN (Lindekin et al. 2023. Glob. Change Biol. 30:e1707), known only from the holotype collected in primary forest 5 cm below the soil in a tree buttress and one paratype collected under leaves (Meiri et al. 2017. Divers. Dist. 24:262–273); no other ecological information is known. Here, I report the partial gut contents of the paratype specimen of *D. vorisi* collected in 1990 from the Danum Valley forest reserve (5.3816°N, 116.9139°E; WGS 84; 95 m elev.) in Sabah, Malaysia (Borneo) (Das and Lim 2003. Raff. Bull. Zool. 51:137–141).

Fig. 1. Three beetle larvae (cf. Elateridae) found in the gut of a *Dibamus vorisi* from Sabah, Malysia.

While attempting to extract liver tissue for genetic analysis from the type specimen, I ruptured the specimen's gut and ten small, maggot-like arthropod larvae tumbled out. More larvae were seen in the gut, but to minimize additional damage to the specimen I did not attempt to extract them. Those larvae that fell out were immediately placed in 70% EtOH and later imaged with a Keyence VHX digital microscope at 50× magnification. They were subsequently returned to the Field Museum of Natural History to be accessioned in the entomological collections. The length of the larvae ranged from 4.5–7.2 mm (Fig. 1) and were tentatively identified as larvae of an unidentified elaterid beetle (Elateridae), which are commonly found in soil and rotting wood (Hopwood et al. 2021. Farming with Soil Life. The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, Portland, Oregon. 128 pp.).

To my knowledge, this is the first record of food items in *D. vorisi* and the only detailed record of diet for the family Dibamidae (Rodda 2020. Lizards of the World Natural and Taxon Accounts. Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, Maryland. 801 pp.), although one species from the Nicobar Islands, *D. nicobaricum*, was noted to eat insects (Tikader and Sharma 1992. Handbook of Indian Lizards. Zoological survey of India, Calcutta, India. 307 pp.). The paratype I examined was collected under leaf litter where elaterid beetle larvae can be found (Das and Lim 2003, *op. cit.*), and my findings demonstrate that insect larvae are taken as prey by dibamids and suggests that the animals' association with insects is likely due to predation.

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***DIPORIPHORA SUPERBA* (Superb Dragon). DIET.** Australian agamid lizards are mostly insectivorous, although a switch to omnivorous diets including plant material has been seen in the larger species such as *Pogona* spp. and *Intellagama lesueurii* (Melville and Wilson 2019. Dragon Lizards of Australia: Evolution, Ecology and a Comprehensive Field Guide. Museums Victoria Publishing, Melbourne, Australia. 406 pp.). *Diporiphora superba* is a species found on foliage along sandstone gorges in the northwestern Kimberley region of Western Australia, and like other members of the genus, this species is only known to eat insects (Weigel 1989. Internat. Zoo Yearbook 28:122–126; Rodda 2020. Lizards of the World: Natural History and Taxon Accounts. Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, Maryland. 801 pp.). Here, I report an observation of herbivory in *D. superba*.

On 26 June 2022, at ca. 1000 h, I observed an adult *D. superba* in a low shrub (Fig. 1) among sandstone rocks near Little Mertens Creek in Mitchell Falls National Park (14.824°S, 125.712°E; WGS 84; 180 m elev.), Kimberley region, western Australia. The lizard was slowly moving through the shrub among sandstone and at one point stopped and consumed two leaves from the shrub or another plant entangled in the shrub (Fig. 2). Each one only took 2–6 sec to be swallowed, and both were eaten consecutively. I am not certain if the shrub where the lizard fed was composed of one or more species, but I observed flowers of *Hypoestes floribunda* var. *distans* (Acanthaceae). To my knowledge this is the first observation of herbivory in *D. superba* and the first such report for the genus *Diporiphora*.