was potentially valuable, the individual was carefully removed from the field and transported to the lab to induce regurgitation. Approximately 15 minutes after removal, the snake was discovered dead. Although Bitis in captivity have died after consuming meals close to their own body mass (Haagner 1988. Koedoe 31:246), we attribute the snake's death to stress from transport. A post-mortem (Fig. 1) revealed that the snake had consumed a Cephalophus natalensis (Red Duiker). The anteater had been bitten in the lower abdomen, and a single fang was found entangled in its fur. The C. natalensis was 104% of the snake's body mass, which is the highest relative prey mass (RPM) recorded for B. gabonica and also the first record of unglutel predate by the species in South Africa.

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Boa Constrictor (Boa Constrictor). Foraging Behavior. Boa constrictor is often referred to as a sit-and-wait or ambush forager that chooses locations to maximize the likelihood of prey encounters (Greene 1983. In Janzen [ed.], Costa Rica Natural History, pp. 380–382. Univ. Chicago Press, Illinois). However, as more is learned about the natural history of snakes in general, the dichotomy between active versus ambush foraging is becoming blurred. Herein, we describe an instance of diurnal active foraging by a B. constrictor, illustrating that this species exhibits a range of foraging behaviors.

At 1120 h on 25 May 2007, on Cayo Cochino Grande, Cayos Cachinos, Honduras (15.9711928037812°N, 86.4739467195224°W, NAD 83/WGS 84), we saw several Arribus jamaicensis (Jamaican Fruit Bat) fly from a living Cohune Oil Palm (Attalea cohune, Arecaceae) approximately 8 m above the ground. We noticed that the bats were disturbed from their daytime roost (likely beneath a frond of the A. cohune) by a B. constrictor (male; SVL = 760 mm; total length = 118 mm; 268 g including prey). The snake fell to the ground while simultaneously constricting four bats and continued to constrict and kill all four bats on the ground. Over approximately 1.5 h we observed the snake consume two of the four individuals (one adult male and one adult female) headfirst and then take refuge under nearby palm fronds on the forest floor. The two bats that were abandoned by the snake were a female (42 g) and a male (29 g). After measuring, we released the B. constrictor at the point of capture without palpatting the two bats it had consumed.

Boa constrictor is known to prey upon at least four species of bats (including A. jamaicensis, Esbérard and Vrcibradic 2007. Rev. Brasil. Zool. 24:848–853). Previous observations of bat predation by B. constrictor describe snakes entering caves or tree cavities to capture roosting bats during the day (Arendt and Anthony 1986. Carib. J. Sci. 22:219–220; Thomas 1974. J. Herpetol. 8:188). Bats roosting in caves and tree cavities would be a predictable prey source for B. constrictor. In contrast, although female A. jamaicensis nested in tree hollows and moved day roosts infrequently on Barro Colorado Island, males roosted in foliage and changed day roost sites frequently (every 3–13 days; Morrison 1978. Ecology 59:716–723). We observed this mixed-sex group of A. jamaicensis roosting in foliage suggesting a relatively ephemeral roost site. Thus our observations suggest that B. constrictor uses active, sometimes diurnal foraging to locate prey such as roosting bats. Additionally, this observation is the first to document a B. constrictor apprehending and constriciting multiple bats simultaneously.

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Boiga Dendrophila (Mangrove Cat Snake). Diet. Boiga dendrophila is a large (to 250 cm total length) colubrid snake, known from both primary and disturbed lowland forests and mangrove swamps of Southeast Asia (Das 2006. A Photographic Guide to the Snakes and Other Reptiles of Borneo. New Holland Publishers, Ltd., London. 144 pp.; David and Vogel 1996. The Snakes of Sumatra: An Annotated Checklist and Key with Natural History Notes. Edition Chimaira, Frankfurt am Main. 260 pp.). Its diet is known to include vertebrates such as frogs, lizards, birds, and rodents; one snake species (Ahaetulla prasina) has also been documented (Stuebing and Inger 1999. A Field Guide to the Snakes of Borneo, Natural History Publications, Sdn. Bhd. Kota Kinabalu. 235 pp.).

At 2000 h on 13 September 2009, an adult B. dendrophila (total length ca. 1 m) was encountered in tree branches on the bank of Sungai Bawang (01.0613°N, 110.1976°E, datum WGS84), a perennial stream flowing over granite-sandstone substrate at Kubah National Park at the Matang Range, Sarawak, East Malaysia.

Fig. 1. Boiga dendrophila consuming a Parias sumatranus in Kubah National Park, East Malaysia.
Approximately 20 species of snakes have been documented feeding on bats in the Neotropics, the majority being boids and colubrids, with only four representatives of Viperidae (Esberard and Vrčibradic 2007). Estebérad and Vrčibradic (op. cit.) conclude that most documented cases of bat predation by snakes in the Neotropics are within or around the refugium used by a juvenile monitor, and we suspect that predation pressure may affect recruitment of monitors.

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Bothriechis schlegelii (Eyelash Palm-Pitviper). DIET. Bothriechis schlegelii has been recorded feeding on a variety of small vertebrates including frogs, lizards, birds, and small mammals (Campbell and Lamar 2004. The Venomous Reptiles of the Western Hemisphere. Comstock Publishing Associates, Ithaca, New York. 898 pp.). Given the nocturnal and arboreal habits of B. schlegelii it is not surprising that bats have been documented in their diet, yet records of chiropterophagy in this species are limited to only two accounts. In one case, a B. schlegelii, found in a shipment of bananas that was believed to have originated in Honduras, regurgitated the nectar-feeding bat, Glossophaga soricina (Groves 1961. Herpetologica 17:277). The other, a case from Costa Rica, involved a B. schlegelii that contained an unidentified bat in its stomach (Hardy 1994. Sonoran Herpetol. 7:108–113). Here we report the first record of B. schlegelii consuming a Myotis riparius.

On 16 August 2008 at 1920 h, a subadult B. schlegelii (UF 155962; SVL = 40.6 cm; tail length = 6.8 cm) was found in the process of consuming a M. riparius (UF 31760; SVL = 3.6 cm). The incident was recorded by SLT and Juan Francisco López while walking a nocturnal transect, Pamka Buhna, in the Kipla Saít Tas-baika indigenous territory of Reserva de la Biósfera Bosawas, Departamento Atlántico Norte, Nicaragua (14.3653°N, 84.9349°W, datum: WGS84; elev. 186 m). The snake was encountered ca. 3 m above ground holding onto an epiphyte on the truck of a large tree, and was in the latter stages of consuming the bat. It took ca. 5 min for the snake to finish consuming the bat, after which, the snake was collected and later preserved. Both specimens were deposited in the Florida Museum of Natural History.

Predation on B. irregularis by V. indicus may be uncommon, as the former normally seeks diurnal shelter in arboreal vine tangles, tree hollows, or even underground refugia (unpubl. data); all of which may be difficult for an adult monitor to access. However, the snakes can probably access virtually any nocturnal refugium used by a juvenile monitor, and we suspect that predation pressure may affect recruitment of monitors.