

***DENDROBATES AURATUS*** (Green and Black Poison Dart Frog). **LARVAL PREDATION.** *Dendrobates auratus* was intentionally introduced onto the island of O'ahu, Hawai'i in 1932 from Taboga Island, Panama for mosquito control. *Phelsuma laticauda* was accidentally introduced from Madagascar in 1996 to the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Both species are well established in the Manoa Valley.

While observing *D. auratus* tadpole depositions in the axils of a large *Vriesea imperialis* (Bromeliaceae), we often noticed adult *P. laticauda* on the leaves. At 0835 h on 1 Aug 2005, we witnessed an adult *P. laticauda* staring at the water in an upper axil of a large (ca. 1 m diameter at the base) *V. imperialis*. The skies were clear and the temperature was 26.2°C. The *P. laticauda* did not appear to notice our observations and continued to stare at the surface of the water. It moved lower into the axil until its snout was ca. 0.5 cm from the surface and continued to stare at the surface. It did

this for ca. 3 minutes. At this point, a *D. auratus* tadpole ca. 2 weeks old (2.5 cm total length) swam to the surface. Almost instantly, the *P. laticauda* struck at the tadpole and pulled it out of the water headfirst. It shook the tadpole back and forth three of four times and cocked its head back and swallowed all but the tip of the tail. It then quickly walked up the leaf and finished swallowing the tadpole. We observed the gecko for ca. 30 min after the predation event before it disappeared into the leaf litter at the base of the bromeliad.

A second predation event occurred at 1200 h on 28 Aug 2005 that was practically identical to the previous event. A different adult *P. laticauda* consumed a *D. auratus* tadpole of comparable size in a different *V. imperialis* ca. 0.4 km away. To our knowledge, this behavior has not been observed in the field. This is probably due to the fact that the natural distribution of these two species does not overlap.

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