

distributed gekkonid lizard, occurs from gallery forests of rivers in Brazilian Cerrado across the entire Amazon and Orinoco Basins, east to foothills of the Andes and north to Panamá (Pianka and Vitt 2003. *Windows to the Evolution of Diversity*. Univ. California Press, Berkeley, California. 346 pp.). In Amazonian Brazil, *G. humeralis* is among the most common lizards, occurring in all kinds of forest, such as terra firme, várzea or igapó, primary or secondary, gallery forests, and patches of forest in savanna areas (Ávila-Pires 1995. *Zool. Verhandl.* 299:1–706). Here, we report a previously unrecognized pattern of habitat use in *G. humeralis* and an escape behavior not previously mentioned in the literature.

During fieldwork in a mangrove forest, we found two individuals of *G. humeralis* (a male 33.5 mm SVL; a female 23.3 mm SVL). This mangrove forest is basically comprised of *Avicennia germinans*, *Rhizophora mangle*, and *Laguncularia racemosa*, and is flooded by daily tides, resulting in high water salinities (41) during the dry season. This mangrove area is located on the Ajuruteua Peninsula, in the municipality of Bragança, State of Pará, Brazil, and is 6 km from the terra firme to the north and ca. 30 km from the mainland to the south. To our knowledge, *G. humeralis* has not been reported as a part of the typical mangrove fauna. Insects represent a major food source for predators in mangroves (Hogarth 1999. *The Biology of Mangroves*. Oxford University Press Inc., New York. 240 pp.), and we found insects in the stomachs of both lizards, including gryllids (Orthoptera), chalcidid wasps (Hymenoptera), termites (Isoptera), and nematocid and pharid flies (Diptera). A number of microhabitats available on the ground in non-flooded tropical forests, such as decayed logs, dead leaves, spaces among roots or else stones, tunnels of termite nests or even axils of terrestrial bromeliads are unavailable to *G. humeralis* for foraging, nesting, or refuge in flooded mangrove areas (Ávila-Pires, *op. cit.*; Maciel et al. 2005. *Herpetol. Rev.* 36:178). During capture, the *G. humeralis* attempted to escape running around the tree trunk, a characteristic behavior for this species (Ávila-Pires, *op. cit.*). Some attempts at capture resulted in their diving into the brackish mangrove water and submerging 10–15 cm, an escape behavior not previously reported. Study of *G. humeralis* in mangrove forests is needed to clarify how this species copes with this inhospitable environment.

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LEPOSOMA PERCARINATUM (NCN). **AQUATIC HABITAT USE.** Lizards of the genus *Leposoma* are conspicuous members of leaf litter herpetofauna in Neotropical forests (Pellegrino et al. 1999. *Hereditas* 13:15–21; Rodrigues 1997. *Herpetologica* 53:383–389). The *Leposoma parietale* species group, which occurs from Amazonia to Costa Rica (Rodrigues and Borges 1997.

Herpetologica 53:1–6; Uzzell and Barry 1971. *Postilla* 154:1–39), currently contains 10 species (Rodrigues and Avila-Pires 2005. *J. Herpetol.* 39:541–546). One, *L. percarinatum*, is parthenogenetic (Pellegrino et al., *op. cit.*; Uzzell and Barry, *op. cit.*) and is probably the most widespread species of *Leposoma* in the Amazon (Avila Pires 1995. *Zool. Ver.* 299:1–706). The species has been reported to occur either close to the water (near creeks or in várzea and igapó forests) or in terra firme forest (Avila-Pires, *op. cit.*; Crump 1971. *Occ. Pap. Mus. Nat. Hist. Univ. Kansas* 3:1–62; Martins 1991. *Stud. Neo. Fauna Env.* 26:179–190; pers. obs.), but aquatic habitat use is unreported. Here, we report an instance of aquatic habitat use.

At 2015 h (at night) on 3 July 2008, SMS observed an adult of *L. percarinatum* active in a pool associated with a small forest creek in a forest fragment near Candeias do Jamari (09.7792°S, 063.6696°W, datum SAD69; elev. 87 m), state of Rondônia, Brazil. The animal was moving at the water surface through floating algae and dead leaves ca. 0.5 m from the edge of the pool. The animal was not collected as it escaped after two capture attempts in the water. Identification was only possible due to the previous experience of the senior author with *Leposoma* in the field (Souza 2007. MSc thesis, Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia, Manaus, Amazonas, Brazil. 73 pp.). This is the first report of *L. percarinatum* using aquatic habitat.

This observation reinforces the idea of relationship between *L. percarinatum* and *L. ferreirai*, hypothesized as closely related (Rodrigues and Avila-Pires, *op. cit.*). *Leposoma ferreirai*, the only *Leposoma* with a clearly aquatic habit, is restricted to Arquipélago das Anavilhanas, a fluvial archipelago of more than 400 islands that are inundated several months annually by the Rio Negro and is ca. 750 km from Candeias do Jamari.

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LIOLAEMUS AUSTROMENDOCINUS (NCN). **SAUROPHAGY.** *Liolaemus austromendocinus* is a medium-sized liolaemid lizard found in northwestern Patagonia from the Andean mountains of Departamento San Carlos, Mendoza Province (34.00°S latitude) to rocky outcrops of the Añelo Basin, Departamento Añelo, northern Neuquén Province (38.50°S latitude). Dietary data are sparse, but the species is reported to feed on insects (Ceï 1986. *Reptiles del Centro, Centro-Oeste y Sur de la Argentina*. Monogr. IV, Mus. Reg. Sci. Nat. Torino, Italy. 527 pp.). Here we report an observation of interspecific saurophagy by an adult *L. austromendocinus* on an adult *L. bibronii*.

On 7 February 2008 during a field trip to Auca Mahuida volcano (37.6932°S, 68.8241°W; datum WGS84; elev. 1348 m, Departamento Añelo, Neuquén Province, northwestern Patagonia, Argentina), we observed an adult *L. austromendocinus* (86.9 mm SVL, 228.9 mm tail) basking on a rock in shrub-steppe habitat. When we

chased it, the lizard ran under a rock where we captured it by hand. One hour after we had temporarily placed this lizard in a plastic container, it regurgitated the remains of a female *L. bibronii* (35 mm long × 10 mm wide). We estimated the original size of the *L. bibronii* by comparison with other preserved *L. bibronii* to be ca. 50 mm SVL. These two lizard species are synoptic in this area of Patagonian steppe and usually share similar habitats. Saurophagy has not been previously documented for *L. austromendocinus*.

Nicolas Frutos verified the identifications and the *L. austromendocinus* (LJAMM 10340) and the *L. bibronii* (LJAMM 10483) were deposited in the Herpetological Collection LJAMM (Luciano Javier Avila Mariana Morando) of the Centro Nacional Patagónico (CENPAT), Puerto Madryn, Chubut.

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LIOLAEMUS BAGUALI (NCN). **SPINAL INJURY.** *Liolaemus baguali* is an uncommon liolaemid lizard endemic to Patagonian steppe environments of western Santa Cruz Province, southern Patagonian, Argentina. During field work on 17 January 2008, along the margins of Ruta Nacional (National Highway) 40, 72.8 km N of its junction Ruta Provincial (Provincial Highway) 288 (49.1040°S, 71.1985°W; datum WGS84; elev. 525 m), Rio Chico Department, Santa Cruz Province, we collected an adult male *L. baguali* (66.4 mm SVL) that appeared to exhibit a scoliosis as had been recently reported for another Patagonian lizard (Frutos et al.

2006. Herpetol. Rev. 37:468–469). After we x-rayed the lizard, we realized that the supposed scoliosis was in fact severe spinal trauma (Fig. 1). The radiograph revealed vertebral displacement and an apparent disconnection between bones. Apparently, the injury had not yet affected the nervous system because the lizard was able to move and run normally. Externally, no evidence of a wound was visible: scales and scale rows were complete and no scars were noticeable. Only a humpback appearance with slight displacement to the right side was evident. Absence of external evidence of injury likely means that it cannot be attributed to a predator. The lizard was found in the west edge of an unpaved road between small to medium rounded rocks periodically disturbed by grazers. The injury may be attributable to crushing between rocks during disturbance by grazers or vehicular traffic. Our observation reveals an unusual ability to survive severe internal injury.

The lizard was deposited in collection Luciano Javier Avila Mariana Morando (LJAMM) now housed in CENPAT-CONICET (LJAMM 9435).

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MICROACONTIAS LITORALIS (Coastal Legless Skink). **COPULATION.** Few ecological and natural history data exist for many fossorial herpetofaunal species, including the skink *Microacontias litoralis*. During the late afternoon of 25 October 2007, a pair of *M. litoralis* was discovered in the process of copulating in white sand dunes near Noup, on the Namaqualand Coast, Northern Cape, South Africa (30.10832°S; 17.21752°E; datum WGS84; elev. 43 m). The lizards were partly exposed in the sand with less than 50% of their bodies obscured from view. Their bodies were entwined, crossing over each other in three places. Temperature of the sand was 28.3°C; air temperature was 22.2°C. On closer inspection, the lizards attempted to escape but were captured. The male's hemipenes were exposed. The male measured 108 mm SVL (26 mm tail, 1.4 g) and showed orange and brown coloration as described by Branch (1998. Field Guide to the Snakes and Other Reptiles of Southern Africa. Struik Publishers, Cape Town, South Africa. 399 pp.). The female measured 111 mm SVL (30 mm tail, 1.4 g) and was an overall orange color with some fine dark speckling over the entire dorsum. These data represent the first on copulation for this species. Both specimens were killed, preserved, and deposited at Bayworld (Port Elizabeth Museum: PEM R17456–57).

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OPHISAURUS COMPRESSUS (Island Glass Lizard). **PRE-DATION.** Known predators of glass lizards (*Ophisaurus* spp.) include colubrid, elapid, and viperid snakes (e.g., Schmidt 1932. Copeia 1932:6–9; Palis 1993. Herpetol. Rev. 24:59, 62; Palmer and Braswell 1995. Reptiles of North Carolina. Univ. North Carolina

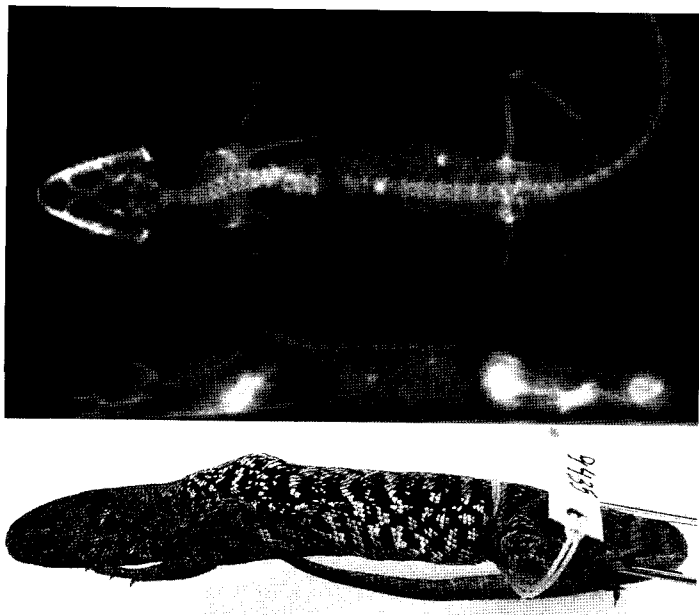


FIG. 1. Top and middle panels: Dorsal and lateral radiographs of the injured *Liolaemus baguali*, arrow indicates the spinal injury. Lower panel: External view, no injury is visible in the dorsal scales.