



FIG. 1. Death of a juvenile Domestic Pigeon (*Columba livia*) after ingestion of the snake *Philodryas olfersii*. A) Lateral view of the bird with the snake coming out of the mouth; B) lower view of the bird showing abdominal swelling; C) parts of the body of the snake after being withdrawn from inside the bird; D, E) detail of the crushed head of snake. Scale bar = 1 cm.

anterior portion of the snake was protruding out of the mouth of the *C. livia*. The observation took place in a gallery forest in the urban part of Tangará da Serra, Mato Grosso, Brazil (57.47933°E, 14.62961°N; WGS 84; 395 m elev.), which is characterized by transitional vegetation between Amazonia Forest and Cerrado Savannah. This is the first report of predation on *P. olfersii* by a juvenile domestic pigeon followed by the death of the bird. Some birds, such as raptors, are effective snake hunters, while others are not (Travaglia-Cardoso and Almeida-Santos 2012, *op. cit.*). Snakes are not commonly reported in the diet of *C. livia* and this event suggests opportunistic predation of a juvenile *P. olfersii*. We assume that the snake was killed by having its head crushed (Fig. 1) by an adult *C. livia* and offered to the juvenile. Moreover, we hypothesized that miscalculations in the size of the prey offered to juveniles may be a maladaptation to the species.

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PHILODRYAS PATAGONIENSIS (Patagonian Green Racer). PREDATION. *Philodryas patagoniensis* is a mid-sized, diurnal, and predominantly terrestrial snake inhabiting open areas such as savannahs and grasslands (Ceil 1993. Reptiles del Noroeste,

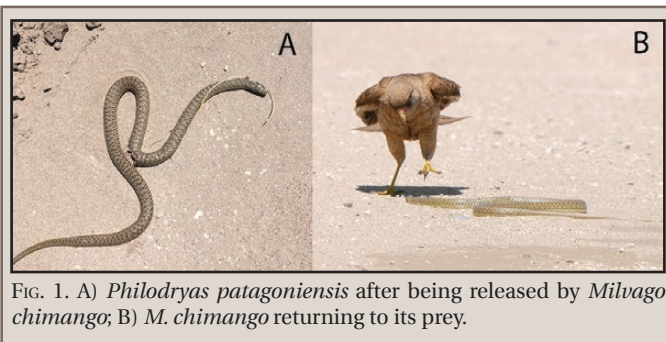


FIG. 1. A) *Philodryas patagoniensis* after being released by *Milvago chimango*; B) *M. chimango* returning to its prey.

Nordeste y Este de la Argentina. Herpetofauna de las Selvas Subtropicales, Puna y Pampas. Mus. Reg. Sci. Nat. Torino. 945 pp.; López and Giraudo 2008. J. Herpetol. 42:474–480). Although it is a widely distributed in Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, eastern Bolivia, and Uruguay (Giraudo and Scrocchi 2002. Smithsonian Herpetological Information Service 132:1–53), there are only few published studies on the ecology or natural history of *P. patagoniensis*. Here we report the first observation of predation on *P. patagoniensis* by a Chimango Caracara (*Milvago chimango*).

At 1235 h on 16 November 2018, during a photographic campaign in Monte Hermoso, Buenos Aires Province, Argentina (38.9655°S, 61.3201°W; WGS 84; 11 m elev.), we observed a Chimango Caracara flying away with a *P. patagoniensis* in its claws. Due to strong wind, the bird dropped the snake and continued flying (Fig. 1A). However, after a few minutes the Chimango Caracara returned and collected its prey (Fig. 1B).

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PITUOPHIS MELANOLEUCUS MUGITUS (Florida Pinesnake). REPRODUCTION/NEST SITE. The only previously reported nest location for *Pituophis melanoleucus mugitus* was a clutch of six recently hatched eggs buried ca. 20 cm deep in the apron of a Gopher Tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) burrow in sandhill habitat in Georgia (Stevenson 2017. Herpetol. Rev. 48:680). Here, we describe two additional clutches from this subspecies found in the wild.

On 19 July 2018, a clutch of eight *P. melanoleucus mugitus* eggs (Florida Museum of Natural History [UF] 185225; color photo) was discovered while excavating *G. polyphemus* burrows for relocation from a highway development site in Citrus County, Florida, USA. The clutch was situated in a small cavity off the chamber at the end of a 4-m-long burrow that was occupied by a small, adult male *G. polyphemus* (187 mm straight-line carapace length). The egg chamber, which was likely excavated by the snake itself, was situated ca. 2 m below the surface at the intersection of the final chamber and an adjoining rodent burrow; the snake could have accessed the subterranean nesting location through either opening. The burrow was in a 7-ha stand of densely planted, 7-year-old Sand Pines (*Pinus clausa*), 50 m from the edge of improved pasture planted in Bahiagrass (*Paspalum notatum*). Grassy ground cover, *G. polyphemus* burrows, and Southeastern Pocket Gopher (*Geomys pinetis*) mounds were sparse in the pine plantation and much denser in the surrounding improved pasture, which was former sandhill habitat.

On 9 August 2018, a clutch of five *P. m. mugitus* eggs (UF 185748; color photo) was discovered 1.85 km from the other clutch while excavating an occupied *G. polyphemus* burrow in Citrus County. This clutch was ca. 30 cm below the surface in overgrown sandhill habitat with a canopy of predominantly Sand Live Oak (*Quercus geminata*), Turkey Oak (*Q. laevis*), and Post Oak (*Q. stellata*), 103 m from a mown powerline right-of-way. The egg chamber was apparently dug by the snake in sand beneath oak leaf litter and was not associated with the *G. polyphemus* burrow situated ca. 3 m away.

Based on our observations, *P. m. mugitus* excavates short nest burrows or nests in the burrows of other animals, including Nine-banded Armadillo (*Dasypus novemcinctus*; G. Bartolotti, pers. comm.). These observations are consistent with earlier