



Predation of a Plantation Glassfrog, *Hyalinobatrachium colymbiphylum* (Anura: Centrolenidae), by an Ornate Cat-eyed Snake, *Leptodeira ornata* (Squamata: Dipsadidae), in Costa Rica

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The genus *Leptodeira* comprises 15 currently recognized species of cat-eyed snakes (although we follow Barrio-Amorós 2019, Uetz et al. 2020 considered *L. ornata* and *L. larcorum* synonyms of *L. septentrionalis*). Four of the 15

species occur in Costa Rica (Barrio-Amorós 2019; Leenders 2019). The Ornate Cat-eyed Snake (*L. ornata*) is distributed in lowlands and adjacent mountain slopes from Honduras into northern South America (Savage 2002; Barrio-Amorós



Fig. 1. An Ornate Cat-eyed Snake (*Leptodeira ornata*) ingesting a Plantation Glassfrog (*Hyalinobatrachium colymbiphylum*) in Sierpe de Osa, Costa Rica. Photographs by R. Nuñez.

2019). In Costa Rica, where it might be one of the most abundant species of snakes in the country, this nocturnally active, semi-arboreal, rear-fanged snake occurs from sea level to 1,850 m asl (Leenders 2019). Ornate Cat-eyed Snakes feed primarily on frogs and toads, including eggs and larvae, as well as small lizards (Duellman 1958; Greene 1997; Stynoski et al. 2014; Platt et al. 2016) and other snakes (McKelvy et al. 2013). Multiple snakes are frequently encountered feeding during anuran breeding aggregations (Solórzano 2004; Wells 2007).

At 2002 h on 27 July 2016, during a nocturnal hike in Sierpe de Osa, Provincia de Puntarenas, Costa Rica (8°8442587”N, 83°4757422”W), we heard a distress call near the stream and found an Ornate Cat-eyed Snake 1.4 m above the ground holding a male Plantation Glassfrog (*Hyalinobatrachium colymbiphellum*) by its legs (Fig. 1). The snake swallowed its prey leg-first, with complete ingestion lasting about a minute. This male was attending two egg masses at different developmental stages, but the snake, likely disturbed by our presence, left the site paying no attention to the eggs.

To the best of our knowledge, this is only the second documented predation event by a cat-eyed snake on a glassfrog. The other documented a *Leptodeira larcorum* eating a Mache Grassfrog (*Cochranella mache*) (Ortega-Andrade et al. 2013).

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