



Prey of Many-keeled Grass Skinks, *Eutropis carinata* (Schneider 1801), in Satara District, Maharashtra, India

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The Many-keeled Grass Skink (*Eutropis carinata*) is distributed in India, Nepal, Bangladesh, and the Maldives (Uetz et al. 2021). Most skinks are opportunistic predators that capture available prey as it is encountered (Manicom and Schwarzkopf 2010). For example, the Sri Lankan Skink (*Eutropis lankae*), until recently considered a subspecies of *E. carinata*, is known to feed on semi-slugs (Karunarathna and Armarsinghe 2009).

During fieldwork from January to April 2021, we noted that Many-keeled Grass Skinks are active during the morning, evening, and sometimes at night, but less so during the midday heat. At about 2200 h on 25 February 2021, while traveling from Satara to Bamnoli, we observed a Many-keeled Grass Skink foraging on the side of the Kaas-Bamnoli Road (17°43'17.562"N, 73°46'5.484"E). Closer examination revealed that it was chasing a cockroach (Blattodea), which it caught and consumed (Fig. 1). We continued to follow the same individual and observed it catching two more cockroaches and a grasshopper (Orthoptera) within an hour; after about two hours of foraging, it retreated beneath a stone. At about 1000 h on 17 March 2021, we observed a subadult

Eutropis carinata near human habitation at Pimprad, Phaltan (17°58'56.37"N, 74°31'58.8108"E), foraging in leaf-litter. Shortly thereafter, it succeeded in catching a house gecko (*Hemidactylus* sp.) (Fig. 1). We believe that this is the first report of *Eutropis carinata* feeding on another reptile and the first report of the species active at night.

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Literature Cited

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Fig. 1. An adult Many-keeled Grass Skink (*Eutropis carinata*) capturing a cockroach (Blattodea) while foraging at night (left) and a subadult taking a house gecko (*Hemidactylus* sp.) in Satara District, Maharashtra, India. Photographs by Prajakta Ashok Chavan.