

infection site: stomach, small intestine (prevalence = 9%, 5.0) and Seuratoidea gen. sp. (larvae in cysts), infection site: stomach wall (prevalence = 36%, mean intensity = 12.8 ± 12.6 , range = 2–26). Voucher nematodes were deposited in the United States National Parasite Collection, (USNPC), Beltsville, Maryland as: *Spauligodon xenosauri* (USNPC 101562); *Physaloptera* sp. as 3rd stage larvae (USNPC 101563), and Seuratoidea gen. sp. (USNPC 101564).

Spauligodon xenosauri was described from *Xenosaurus platyceps* from Tamaulipas, Mexico by Bursey et al. (2007. *Zootaxa* 1501:65–68). *Xenosaurus grandis* is the second host known to harbor it. *Spauligodon xenosauri* is a member of the Oxyuroidea, which infect hosts directly (Anderson 2000. *Nematode Parasites of Vertebrates. Their Development and Transmission*. CABI Publishing, Oxfordshire, UK, 650 pp.). Infection likely occurs when lizards lick substrate on which eggs are present (see Goldberg and Bursey 1992. *J. Parasitol.* 78:539–541). *Physaloptera retusa* is a common parasite in lizards of Mexico and North America and requires an insect intermediate host (Bursey et al. 2007. *Comp. Parasitol.* 74:108–140). Bursey and Goldberg (1991. *J. Wildlife Dis.* 27:710–715), in a study of *P. retusa* in the lizard *Sceloporus jarrovi*, suggested that approximately 10% of 3rd stage larvae ingested by a host survive to maturity and that those found in the small intestine were dead at time of host capture. Goldberg et al. (1993. *Bull. South. California Acad. Sci.* 92:43–51) reported hosts for physalopteran larvae; teiid and xenosaurid lizards were absent from that list which suggests that some lizards may not be suitable hosts for this nematode. In this case, these physalopteran larvae should be considered to be artifacts of diet. The life cycles of the Seuratoidea are largely unknown (Anderson 2000, *op. cit.*) but it is thought that insects serve as intermediate hosts. In this study, the cysts were in early granuloma formation perhaps indicating re-encystment of larvae in an inappropriate host. *Xenosaurus grandis* represents a new host record for *Spauligodon xenosauri*, *Physaloptera* sp. (3rd stage) and larvae of Seuratoidea gen. sp.

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Submitted by **STEPHEN R. GOLDBERG**, Department of Biology, Whittier College, Whittier, California 90608, USA (e-mail: sgoldberg@whittier.edu); and **CHARLES R. BURSEY**, Department of Biology, Pennsylvania State University, Shenango Campus, Sharon, Pennsylvania, USA (e-mail: cxb13@psu.edu).

SQUAMATA — SNAKES

BOTHROPS ASPER (Terciopelo). **SCAVENGING BEHAVIOR.** We encountered a *Bothrops asper* as it scavenged a frog at La Selva Biological Station in Costa Rica (10.4333333°N, 83.9833333°W) on 20 April 2008 at dusk (1747 h local time). The *B. asper* (ca. 60 cm long and missing part of its tail) slid onto the cement trail to a dead, rotting frog. The snake grasped the frog in its mouth, dragged it to the leaf litter adjacent to the trail, let go of the frog, then re-approached and consumed it. The frog was decayed beyond identification and attracting flies (Fig. 1).

Scavenging behavior has been documented in 12 species of Crotalinae under field conditions (DeVault and Krochmal 2002,



FIG. 1. *Bothrops asper* consuming a scavenged frog at La Selva Biological Station, Costa Rica.

Herpetologica 58:429–436). Sazima and Strüssman (1990. *Rev. Brasil. Biol.* 50:463–468) suggest that habitat and diet can influence carrion encounter rates. They expect terrestrial snakes with diverse diets to be “occasional” scavengers. As a dietary generalist, the terrestrial *B. asper* meets their prediction (Martins et al. 2002. *In* Schuett et al. [eds.], *Biology of the Vipers*, pp. 307–328. Eagle Mountain Publishing, Eagle Mountain, Utah). We speculate that scavenging is a prevalent opportunistic foraging strategy for many snakes (A. Solórzano, pers. comm.) that has gone unnoticed due to the difficulty of observing such behaviors under field conditions.

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Submitted by **CORINA J. LOGAN**, University of Cambridge, Department of Experimental Psychology, Cambridge, CB2 3EB, UK (e-mail: itsme@CorinaLogan.com); and **CHRISTOPHER MONTERO**, Ecosystem Services Section, Washington State Department of Natural Resources, Olympia, Washington 98504-7016, USA.

CLELIA SCYTALINA (Mexican Snake Eater). **DIET.** *Clelia scytalina* is a large terrestrial snake whose distribution is apparently unclear and disjunct, occurring at low elevations from southern Mexico to Costa Rica (Savage 2002. *The Amphibians and Reptiles of Costa Rica: A Herpetofauna Between Two Continents, Between Two Seas*. Univ. Chicago Press. Chicago, Illinois. 934 pp.). Natural history of this species is poorly known. In the Los Tuxtlas region of Veracruz, Mexico diet records include frogs and lizards (Pérez-Higareda et al. 2007. *Serpientes de la Región de Los Tuxtlas, Veracruz, México. Guía de Identificación Ilustrada*. Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. 189 pp.), but there are no previous records of snakes as prey in this area.

On 17 May 2006 at 1700 h we observed a *C. scytalina* (ca. 120 cm total length) preying on a Parrot Snake (*Leptophis ahaetulla*) of similar length. The event occurred in a dry creek in the tropical rainforest reserve at Los Tuxtlas Field Station (Lote 67, Vigia Hill, 18.5851°N, 95.08055°W, 178 m elev., WGS84). The *C. scytalina* surprised the *L. ahaetulla* at rest, biting its head and starting to