

area of open woodland along a permanent wetland at El Questro Wilderness Park in the east Kimberley region of Western Australia (15.980556°S, 127.458889°E). Upon approaching the animal, we noticed a juvenile *V. panoptes* (SVL: 192 mm, TL: 479 mm) in the mouth of the male. The male dropped the juvenile before fleeing a distance of approximately 30 m. The juvenile *V. panoptes* was dead upon discovery and exhibited wounds consistent with being mouthed by another monitor lizard.

On 8 June 2001, we observed a large *V. panoptes* on the bank of the Daly River near Ooloo Crossing, Northern Territory, Australia (14.004391°S, 131.240014°E). The lizard was a male, judging by its size (ca. 60 cm), and was in the act of swallowing a sub-adult *V. panoptes* that was about one-third the size of the cannibal. The head and front legs were inside the larger lizard. The smaller lizard was still struggling, raking at the head of the larger lizard with its hind legs. The larger lizard appeared to be struggling to swallow its prey, and would shake it from side-to-side occasionally. Once the prey stopped struggling, the larger monitor slowly swallowed it until just a portion of tail (ca. 15 cm) was left hanging out of its mouth. At this stage the larger lizard appeared to have difficulty walking, and we did not observe the last portion of the tail being swallowed. During the latter part of the swallowing, a third *V. panoptes* walked past that was a similar size to the one that was eaten.

Although our 2001 observation may reflect scavenging, the prey in our 2012 observation was definitely alive. Moreover, there are observations of *V. panoptes* capturing and eating other monitor species (Christian 1995. *Herpetol. Rev.* 26:146; Rhind and Doody 2011. *Herpetofauna* 41:64–65). Benefits of cannibalism not involving offspring or eggs include nutrition, reduction of competition for resources, or reproductive competition (Polis 1981, *op. cit.*). In tropical ecosystems in Northern Australia, *V. panoptes* plays an important role as a key predator and is responsible for the regulation of a number of prey species (Blamires 2004. *Copeia*, 2004:370–377; Doody et al. 2006. *Wildl. Res.* 33:349–354; Doody et al. 2009. *Anim. Conserv.* 12:46–53; Doody et al. 2012a. *Herpetol. Rev.* 43:339–340; Doody et al. 2012b. *Herpetol. Rev.* 43:491–492; Doody et al. 2013. *Biol. Invas.* 15:559–568; Webb and Manolis 2010. *Freshwater Crocodile, Crocodylus johnstoni*, Status Survey and Action Plan. Crocodile Specialist Group, Darwin). Large male *V. panoptes* may likewise consume conspecifics frequently, but our observations are not sufficient to determine the frequency of cannibalism or its costs-benefits in this top predator.

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**ZOOTOCA VIVIPARA (Common Lizard). RECORD WEIGHT.** On 25 June 2011 a very heavy adult female specimen of *Zootoca vivipara* was found on the island of Hiddensee near Vitte (54.563816°N, 13.112562°E) at the German coastline of the Baltic Sea underneath a dry-docked sailing boat. The female *Z. vivipara* reported here weighed 10.0 g (live weight), which makes it the heaviest gravid female specimen of the Common Lizard ever recorded (Fig. 1). The examined *Z. vivipara* measured 157



FIG. 1 Gravid adult female *Zootoca vivipara* with a record weight of 10.0 g (found on the island of Hiddensee, Germany).

mm in total length (SVL = 72 mm; tail length = 85 mm). Most adult specimens of *Z. vivipara* express a total length of 110–140 mm with a maximum length of approximately 180 mm (Günther and Völkl 1996. *In* R. Günther [ed.], *Die Amphibien und Reptilien Deutschlands*, pp. 588–600. Fischer, Jena). Female individuals typically have a SVL measuring between 45 and 70 mm, seldom more than 75 mm (Günther and Völkl, 1996, *op. cit.*). Few reports regarding body weight data have been published for *Z. vivipara*.

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#### SQUAMATA — SNAKES

**AGKISTRODON CONTORTRIX (Copperhead). DIET.** *Agkistrodon contortrix* is a widely-distributed viperid species that occurs in the eastern and central United States and northern Mexico. The species' diet is known to include many species of small mammals, birds, snakes, lizards, frogs, salamanders, and invertebrates (Campbell and Lamar 2004. *The Venomous Reptiles of the Western Hemisphere*, Volume I. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, New York. 475 pp.). On 19 April 2012, at 2040 h, a male *A. contortrix* (SVL ca. 63.4 cm; Auburn University Museum [AUM] 39901) was collected injured on State Road 503 near CR 20 in Jasper Co., Mississippi, USA (32.13914°N, 89.06058°W; datum WGS84). The snake died overnight. While curating the specimen, the remains of an adult *Plestiodon inexpectatus* (Southeastern Five-lined Skink; AUM 39902) were found in the stomach. The lizard had been ingested headfirst. To our knowledge, this is the first record of *A. contortrix* consuming *P. inexpectatus* (Campbell and Lamar, *op. cit.*).

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**BOGERTOPHIS SUBOCULARIS (Trans-Pecos Ratsnake). OVER-WINTERING BEHAVIOR.** Colubrid snakes in North America, especially those inhabiting higher latitudes, typically hibernate during the cold winter months (Ernst and Ernst 2003. *Snakes of*