

2023 in Bu Gia Map National Park in the Binh Phuoc Province, Vietnam (12.1220°N, 107.1768°E; WGS 84; 425 m elev.). This lizard was a large female *L. corpulentum* with a SVL of 180.0 mm (Fig. 1), ca. 11 mm greater than previously reported by Geissler et al. (2011, *op. cit.*). We were unable to measure total length because the lizard's tail was partially autotomized, but the remaining tail measured 14.3 mm, including 5.5 mm of the newly regenerated portion.

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OPHIODES STRIATUS (Striped Worm Lizard). PREDATION. *Ophiodes striatus* is a semi-fossorial, medium sized lizard with an elongated body found in Brazil, Uruguay, and Paraguay. Its primary predators are snakes, with at least four species reported (Maia-Carneiro et al. 2016. Neotrop. Biol. Conserv. 11:47–50; Entiauspe-Neto et al. 2018. Herpetol. Rev. 49:331; Dubeux et al. 2020. Cuad. Herpetol. 34:247–250; Newton et al. 2023. Herpetol. Rev. 54:144), but one bird species (Santos et al. 2021. Heringeriana, 15:40–47), as well as conspecifics (Montechiaro et al. 2011. NW J. Zool. 7:63–71) have also been noted. Here we report an observation of a mammalian predator, the Pampas Fox (*Lycalopex gymnocercus*), preying on an *O. striatus* in Brazil.

On 23 November 2021, at 0901 h, we observed an adult female Pampas Fox carrying an adult *O. striatus*, that appeared dead, in its mouth (Fig. 1) near the headquarters of the Parque Estadual do Tainhas (PET), Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil (29.0930°S, 50.3644°W; WGS 84; 850 m elev.). We suspect the fox had recently killed the lizard by the presence of fresh bloody wounds near the head and tail, the latter of which was partially missing, which suggests it suffered caudal autotomy while being subdued. We watched the fox for 15 min as it slowly moved across the field towards the PET's headquarters, carrying the *O. striatus* in its mouth, apparently looking for a suitable place to eat it, until it ran out of sight.

To our knowledge this is the first report of a mammalian predator on *O. striatus*. The Pampas Fox is a generalist predator and reptiles, including lizards, have been reported in their diet, but these reports were based off scat samples and could not be identified to species (Farias and Kittlein 2008. Ecol. Res. 23:543–550; Varela et al. 2008. J. Mammal. 89:1012–1019).

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FIG. 1. Female Pampas Fox carrying a freshly killed adult *Ophiodes striatus* in Parque Estadual do Tainhas, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil.

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PHRYNOSOMA CORNUTUM (Texas Horned Lizard). ROLLING OF SCAT BY DUNG BEETLE. Dung beetles in the subfamily Scarabaeinae (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae), with more than 6000 species, feed on animal excreta, primarily mammalian dung, as both adults and larvae (Nichols et al. 2008. Biol. Conserv. 141:1461–1474; Gunter et al. 2016. PLoS ONE 11:e0153570). However reports of dung beetles attracted to reptile dung is much rarer, with 19 records comprising 11 species (Lopes et al. 2023. Front. Ecol. Evol. 11:1132729). Of these 19 records, only 10 are from lizards (comprising six species) and none from the genus *Phrynosoma* (Lopes et al. 2023, *op. cit.*). We here report the first known observation of a dung beetle rolling the scat of a *Phrynosoma cornutum* and briefly suggest possible relevance for ecological function.

On 6 August 2017 at 1335 h, we observed a *Canthon viridis* (Metallic Green Tumblebug; Fig. 1) rolling a *P. cornutum* scat (ca. 3.5–4.5 mm total length) in Karnes County, Texas, USA (28.8890°N, 97.8963°W; WGS 84; 130 m elev.). We watched the beetle roll the scat for ca. 2–3 min, during which it moved a distance of ca. 15 cm. The scat was broken open on one end, but we did not observe whether this was caused by the beetle's behavior or some other previous cause. We did not stay to observe whether the beetle later buried the fecal pellet or laid eggs in it.

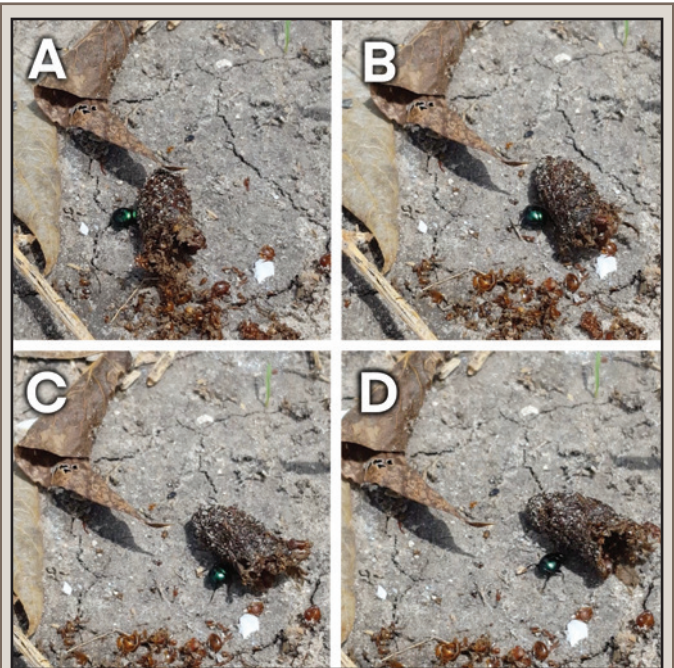


FIG. 1. Frames of a videographic sequence of a *Canthon viridis* dung beetle rolling a broken *Phrynosoma cornutum* scat filled with *Pogonomyrmex barbatus* (Red Harvester Ant) exoskeletons in Karnes County, Texas, USA.

To our knowledge this is the first report of a *Phrynosoma* scat-dung beetle association and also seems to be the first recorded observation of a *Canthon* spp. rolling reptile scat in a manner usually associated with feeding (e.g., Lopes et al. 2023, *op. cit.*). Exoskeletons of digested dung beetles, including *Canthon* spp., have been found in the scat of *P. cornutum* at this location (Alenius 2018. Can specialists generalize? Diets of Texas horned lizards [*Phrynosoma cornutum*] in small Texas towns. M.S. Thesis, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas. 71 pp.), but our observation suggests a potentially more complex, although passive, lizard–beetle relationship. While metagenomics reveals that the attraction of dung beetles to reptile dung may be underreported (Lopes et al. 2023, *op. cit.*), it is unclear if dung beetle use of *P. cornutum* scat is common, rare, or if it's a high-quality food source for their larvae, and therefore this is worthy of further study.

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PHYMATURUS ROIGORUM. PREDATION. The genus *Phymaturus* is comprised of 52 species of saxicolous lizards that have flattened bodies and spiny tails that enable them to seek refuge in rock crevices to evade predators (Debandi et al. 2012. *Austral Ecol.* 37:392–400; Uetz et al. [eds.] 2024. *The Reptile Database*. <http://www.reptile-database.reptarium.cz>, 13 May 2024). Despite the high species diversity of the genus *Phymaturus*, little is known about the predators of most species. Known predators include birds such as *Geranoaetus polyosoma* (Red-backed Hawk) on *P. extrilidus* (Perez et al. 2013. *Herpetol. Rev.* 44:679), *Agriornis montanus* (Black-bellied Shrike-tyrant) on *P. maulense* (Ramírez-Álvarez and Cox 2023. *Herpetol. Notes* 16:391–394), and *Circus cinereus* (Cinereous Harrier; Martínez, pers. comm.) on *P. verdugo*, although the mammal *Galictis cuja* (Lesser Grison) and the lizard *Pristidactylus nigroiugulus* have been reported to prey on *P. spurcus* (Cabezas-Cartes et al. 2013. *J. Exp. Zool.* 9999A:1–9; Cabezas-Cartes et al. 2018. *J. Zool.* 304:175–181). Here, we report

an observation of a *Lycalopex gymnocercus* (Pampas Fox) preying on the endemic *P. roigorum* at the Payunia Reserve in Mendoza Province, Argentina (36.4856°S, 69.3713°W; WGS 84; 2107 m elev.).

While conducting herpetological surveys in wind-molded ignimbrite rocks, known as yardangs, on 14 January 2023 at 1648 h, we observed an adult Pampas Fox carrying an adult *P. roigorum* in its mouth (Fig. 1). This lizard was easily identified by its larger size (ca. 10 cm SVL) and yellowish, more spiny tail compared to the slimmer-bodied and smaller sympatric congeneric *P. payuniae* (ca. 8.4 cm SVL; Corbalán and Debandi 2013. *J. Nat. Hist.* 47:1365–1378). As we watched from our vehicle, ca. 40 m away, the fox quickly carried the lizard out of sight behind rocks, and we could not determine if the lizard was still alive, however, it appeared limp.

To our knowledge this is the first reported predator of *P. roigorum* as well as the first record of Pampas Foxes preying on *Phymaturus* lizards. The Pampas Fox is a common carnivore throughout South America and is described as an omnivore generalist feeding mainly on small mammals and insects, although reptiles are a small part of their diet (García and Kittlein 2005. *Mammal. Biol.* 70:218–226; Varela et al. 2008. *J. Mammal.* 89:1012–1019).

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SCELOPORUS SLEVINI (Slevin's Bunchgrass Lizard). MELANISTIC COLORATION. *Sceloporus slevini* ranges from northern Mexico into the Sky Islands and valleys of southeastern Arizona

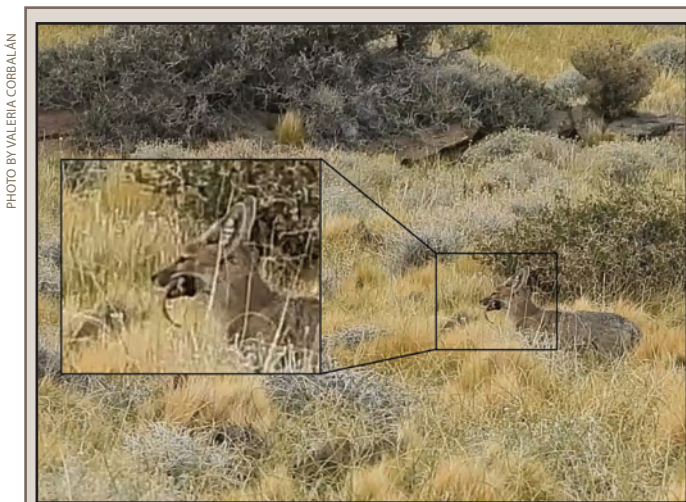


FIG. 1. The Pampas Fox (*Lycalopex gymnocercus*) preying on a *Phymaturus roigorum* lizard in Mendoza Province, Argentina.



FIG. 1. Regular color pattern (A) and unicolor, or patternless, color pattern (B) of gravid *Sceloporus slevini* females from the Chiricahua Mountains, Arizona, USA.