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**CTENOSAURA SIMILIS** (Black Spiny-Tailed Iguana), **GOPHERUS POLYPHEMUS** (Gopher Tortoise). **CONCURRENT BURROW USE.** *Ctenosaura similis* is exotic to Florida (Meshaka et al. 2004. *The Exotic Amphibians and Reptiles of Florida*, Krieger Publ. Co., Malabar, Florida. 155 pp.), whereas *Gopherus polyphemus* is listed as a species of special concern by the state of Florida (Florida Wildlife Code Chap. 39 F.A.C.), and as a threatened species by the Florida Committee on Rare and Endangered Plants and Animals (FCREPA) (Moler 1992. *Rare and Endangered Biota of Florida: Volume III, Reptiles and Amphibians*. University Press of Florida, Gainesville, Florida. 291 pp.). Three *C. similis* were introduced to Gasparilla Island (Charlotte and Lee counties) ca. 30–35 years ago, where the species is now abundant (Krysko et al. 2003. *Florida Sci.* 66:141–146). Among the many concerns about the high density of ctenosaurs on Gasparilla Island are their impacts to threatened and endangered species (Krysko et al. 2003. *Florida Sci.* 66:141–146). *C. similis* is well-known to occupy *G. polyphemus* burrows, but apparently *G. polyphemus* cohabitation has not been observed following their occupation by ctenosaurs (McKercher 2001. Unpubl. M.Sc. thesis, Univ. Florida, Gainesville, Florida. 117 pp.). We report here observations of ctenosaur usage of active *G. polyphemus* burrows and the effects on *G. polyphemus*.

From 14–28 February 2008 we made a series of observations on Gasparilla Island, Florida at a 0.1-ha site of undeveloped habitat surrounded by a neighborhood of homes with manicured landscaping. Approximately 14 adult *G. polyphemus* resided in this small area, with a similar number of adult *C. similis*. As part of an invasive species removal effort, and to avoid impacting tortoises during the invasive species removal operations, observations on burrow usage were made on 12 days during the time span.

Ctenosaurs would actively move among the burrows (created by *G. polyphemus*), appearing to purposefully investigate other burrows holding other ctenosaurs. Ctenosaurs would readily enter burrows already occupied by a tortoise (or another ctenosaur). If a tortoise was situated at the burrow entrance, an iguana would not hesitate to scramble over or around the tortoise to enter the burrow, without causing the tortoise to exit. Typically, a tortoise would readily enter a burrow already holding a ctenosaur. However, we observed that a burrow which appeared to be regularly occupied by four ctenosaurs was not observed, either directly or from tracks, to be entered by a tortoise. Once 12 *C. similis* were removed from the site (and only one or two adult *C. similis* remained on the entire site), that burrow no longer was occupied by ctenosaurs and *G. polyphemus* resumed using it. Thus, some low level of burrow sharing appears to be tolerated by *G. polyphemus*, but they also seem to be repelled from burrows at some level of

*C. similis* activity.

Our observations relate only to the willingness to share burrows. Other potentially negative aspects of *C. similis* activity such as *G. polyphemus* nest destruction was not addressed. Examination of the stomach contents of *C. similis* removed from Gasparilla Island will be examined for *G. polyphemus* eggs and examination of *G. polyphemus* burrow aprons for *G. polyphemus* nests that were intentionally (e.g., predation) or accidentally (e.g., byproduct of ctenosaur nesting) disturbed or destroyed by *C. similis* will help identify other negative aspects of their activities.

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**CTENOSAURA SIMILIS** (Black Spiny-Tailed Iguana), **COLUBER CONSTRICTOR PRIAPUS** (Southern Black Racer). **NON-PREDATORY KILLING.** *Ctenosaura similis* is exotic to Florida (Meshaka et al. 2004. *The Exotic Amphibians and Reptiles of Florida*. Krieger Publ. Co., Malabar, Florida. 155 pp.). In particular, three individuals were released on Gasparilla Island (Charlotte and Lee counties) ca. 30–35 years ago, where they are now abundant (Krysko et al. 2003. *Florida Sci.* 66:141–146). This species may pose a threat to a number of endemic threatened and endangered species on Gasparilla Island such as eggs and young of nesting shorebirds, beach mice, hatchling sea turtles and Gopher Tortoises (*Gopherus polyphemus*) (Krysko et al., *op. cit.*). We report evidence that *C. similis* may also pose a threat to snakes.

On 10 November 2007, MK observed a ca 60 cm (total length) adult male *C. similis* attack a similarly long *Coluber constrictor priapus*. The iguana was basking on a rock at 1400 h on a warm (ca. 28°C) afternoon, when it attacked the racer as it approached within 2 m of the lizard's position. The ctenosaur rushed the snake and grabbed it in its mouth and shook it vigorously, much as dogs are prone to do. Once the snake was limp and appeared dead, the lizard dropped it and backed off 30–40 cm. When it noticed the snake's body twitching, it again rushed it and shook it, and again dropped it and backed off 30–40 cm. Further twitching of the snake's body resulted in another rush and even more vigorous shaking of the snake with the lizard backing off about 2 m this time, but additional twitching triggered another rush and shaking. Once the racer ceased to move, the iguana ignored it. The scene was observed for 20 min more to see if the ctenosaur would eat the racer, but it did not. The next morning its carcass was in the same spot.

We cannot clearly explain the ctenosaur's behavior towards the racer, but a defense mechanism towards snakes seems plausible. Janzen and Brodie (1995. *J. Herpetol.* 29:132–136) studied color cues in ctenosaur foraging by using different color patterns on snake replicas. They found brightly colored replica snakes (red, yellow, black) elicited the most attacks, but concluded the lizards

perceived the replicas as colored flowers or fruits because snakes were unknown in ctenosaur diet studies and snakes with such coloration could pose a hazard to the lizards (Janzen and Brodie, *op. cit.*). Our observation clearly shows the willingness of a ctenosaur to attack a snake, even though the racer most closely resembled the monotone color pattern that elicited the fewest attacks in the Janzen and Brodie study. More importantly, this behavior may have implications regarding the potential for *C. similis* to impact threatened or endangered species. If this behavior is innate in *C. similis*, juvenile *Drymarchon corais couperi* (Eastern Indigo Snakes), a threatened species (Moler 1992. Rare and Endangered Biota of Florida, Vol III, Amphibians and Reptiles. University Press of Florida, Gainesville, Florida. 291 pp.), could be severely impacted. A high-density population of *C. similis*, such as found on Gasparilla Island, could negatively affect snake recruitment through such behavior.

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**DIPLOLAEMUS DARWINI** (NCN). **SAUROPHAGY.** *Diplolema darwini* is a poorly known leiosaurid lizard found in Patagonia south of 44°S latitude. Data on the diet of this species is sketchy, though some authors mention it to be insectivorous (Cei 1986. Reptiles del Centro, Centro-Oeste y Sur de la Argentina, Mus. Reg. Sci. Nat. Torino, Monogr. IV:1-527). Here we report an observation of interspecific saurophagy by an adult *D. darwini* on an adult *Liolaemus lineomaculatus*.

On 17 January 2008 during a field trip to Sierra del Bagual (49.40°S; 71.83°W; WGS84; elev. 601 m), Lago Argentino Department, Santa Cruz Province, southern Patagonia, Argentina; we observed an adult female *D. darwini* (92.9 mm SVL, 61.6 mm tail) basking on a rock in shrub-steppe habitat. When we chased it, the lizard ran under a rock where we captured it by hand. A few hours after we had temporarily placed this lizard in a plastic container, it regurgitated the remains of a female *L. lineomaculatus* (26.6 mm long × 12.5 mm wide). We estimated the original size of the *L. lineomaculatus* by comparison with other preserved *L. lineomaculatus* to be ca. 60 mm SVL. We also examined the remaining stomach contents of the *D. darwini* and found it to contain two tenebrionid beetles (*Nyctela* sp.). These two lizard species are synoptic in this area of Patagonian steppe and usually share similar habitats. Saurophagy has not been previously documented in the field for *D. darwini*.

D. R. Perez verified the identifications and the *D. darwini* (LJAMM 9390) and the *L. lineomaculatus* (LJAMM 7292) were deposited in the Herpetological Collection LJAMM (Luciano Javier Avila Mariana Morando) of the Centro Nacional Patagónico (CENPAT), Puerto Madryn, Chubut.

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**GAMBELIA COPEI** (Cope's Leopard Lizard). **ENDOPARASITES.** *Gambelia copei*, a near-endemic to Baja California, ranges from extreme southern San Diego County, California, south to the northern Cape Region, Baja California Sur, Mexico (Grismer 2002. Amphibians and Reptiles of Baja California Including its Pacific Islands and the Islands in the Sea of Cortés. Uni v. California Press, Berkeley, California. 399 pp.). To our knowledge, no reports of helminths exist for this species. The purpose of this note is to document the nematode *Thubunaea iguanae* from *G. copei*.

One *G. copei* female (108 mm SVL) collected in 1949 and deposited in the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (LACM), Los Angeles County, California, USA (LACM 4005, vic. Cerro Elefante, Vizcaino Desert, 27.2966°N, 114.3750°W, WGS84; elev. 335 m) was examined for helminths. The body cavity was opened and the coelomic cavity and visceral organs were examined. One nematode was found. It was cleared in a drop of glycerol on a glass slide, cover-slipped and identified as an adult female *T. iguanae* and deposited in the United States National Parasite Collection, Beltsville, Maryland as USNPC 101071.

*Thubunaea iguanae* is widely distributed among lizards from the southwestern United States and Mexico and has been reported from crotophytids, gekkonids, phrynosomatids, teiids, and xantusiids (Telford 1965. Jpn. J. Exp. Med. 35:111-114) as well as colubrid snakes (Goldberg and Bursey 2001. Bull. South. California Acad. Sci. 100:109-116). It is in the family Physalopteridae, which utilize insect intermediate hosts (Anderson 2000. Nematode Parasites of Vertebrates: Their Development and Transmission, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. CABI Publishing, Oxfordshire, UK, 650 pp.). *Gambelia copei* is a new host record for *T. iguanae*.

We thank Christine Thacker (LACM) for permission to examine *G. copei*.

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**GLAPHYROMORPHUS NIGRICAUDUS** (NCN). **PREY PIRACY.** Prey piracy, the opportunistic theft of prey from another predator or another indirect source, is known for a broad range of diurnal reptilian taxa. In this note I report on an incidence of prey piracy in the skink *Glaphyromorphus nigricaudus*.

*Glaphyromorphus nigricaudus* is a secretive species restricted to tropical northeast Queensland, Australia. Like most of its genus, it prefers shaded moist habitats and is reported to be nocturnal-