

that may have adapted alternative defense strategies. While our observation sheds further light on the behaviour and ecology of Australian blindsnakes, it also identifies knowledge gaps requiring further study.

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APOSTOLEPIS DIMIDIATA. REPRODUCTION. *Apostolepis dimidiata* is a small snake (to 630 mm SVL) found in Cerrado and Chaco areas from southeastern Brazil, eastern Paraguay, and northern Argentina (Lema 2001. Cuad. Herpetol. 15:29–43). It belongs to the tribe Elapomorphini, a monophyletic group containing nearly 48 species of poorly-known fossorial snakes widely distributed in South America (Uetz and Hošek [eds.], The Reptile Database, <http://www.reptile-database.org>; accessed 17 March 2015). Herein, we present the first reproductive information (reproductive mode, clutch size, egg size, and reproductive timing) for *A. dimidiata*.

At 1100 h on 13 December 2009, an adult female *A. dimidiata* (SVL = 319 mm; tail length = 31 mm; and mass = 4.1 g) was found emerging from the soil, after the passage of a bulldozer associated with construction of the Anhanguera Hydroelectric Dam (20.5011°S, 47.8647°W, WGS84; 547 m elev.), situated in the municipality of São Joaquim da Barra, São Paulo state, southeastern Brazil. The animal died later that day, and during the necropsy we found it to contain two extremely elongated eggs (31.0 × 4.8 mm and 31.8 × 5.3 mm), one in each oviduct (Fig. 1). Eggs were surrounded by an opaque, thick, and coriaceous eggshell, indicating oviparity. Dissection of one egg revealed a developing embryo at stage 21 (Zehr 1962. Copeia 1962:322–329), within the range of stage at oviposition in most snakes (Blackburn 1995. J. Theor. Biol. 174:199–216), indicating that egg-laying was near to occur. Reproductive traits reported here (low clutch size, elongated eggs, and timing of gravidity) are similar to other Elapomorphini (Braz et al. 2014. Herpetol. J. 24:49–57).

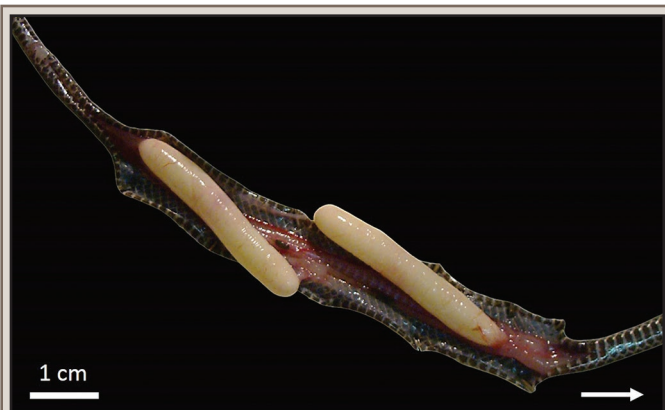


FIG. 1. Female *Apostolepis dimidiata* collected on 13 December 2009 in São Joaquim da Barra (São Paulo, Brazil) containing two elongated oviductal eggs. The arrow indicates the orientation of the head.

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BOTHROPS DIPORUS (Southern Pitviper). DIET / OPHIOPHAGY. Ophiophagy has been reported for at least 10 species in the genus *Bothrops (sensu lato)* (Martins et al. 2002. In Schuett et al. [eds.], Biology of the Vipers, pp. 307–328. Eagle Mountain Publ., Eagle Mountain, Utah; Marques et al. 2004. Herpetol. Rev. 35:58; Duarte 2008. Herpetol. Rev. 31:45–46). Here we report for the first time a predation event by *Bothrops diporus* upon an adult *Chironius maculiventris*.

At 0235 h, on 24 February 2012, during fieldwork near the Paraguay River in “Estancia La Emilia” (25.94096°S, 57.89160°W; WGS84), northeast of Formosa Province, Argentina, we observed a female *B. diporus* in the process of swallowing an adult *C. maculiventris* (Fig. 1A). The event took place on a dirt road that runs through mixed palm-tree savannah in the Wet Chaco eco-region. The racer had been taken head first and was approximately half swallowed at the time it was found. The head and anterior portion of the *C. maculiventris* were mutilated and exhibited evident external damage and hemorrhaging, particularly in the heart region (Fig. 1B). Both snakes were collected immediately but only the viper was properly measured (SVL = 73.9 cm), fixed, and deposited at the Universidad Nacional del Nordeste as a voucher specimen (UNNE JRG-197); the size of the racer was estimated (SVL ca. 91 cm) and the specimen later discarded due to the poor quality of the specimen.

Chironius maculiventris is a terrestrial-arboreal, slender, relatively long snake, with largest specimens measuring about

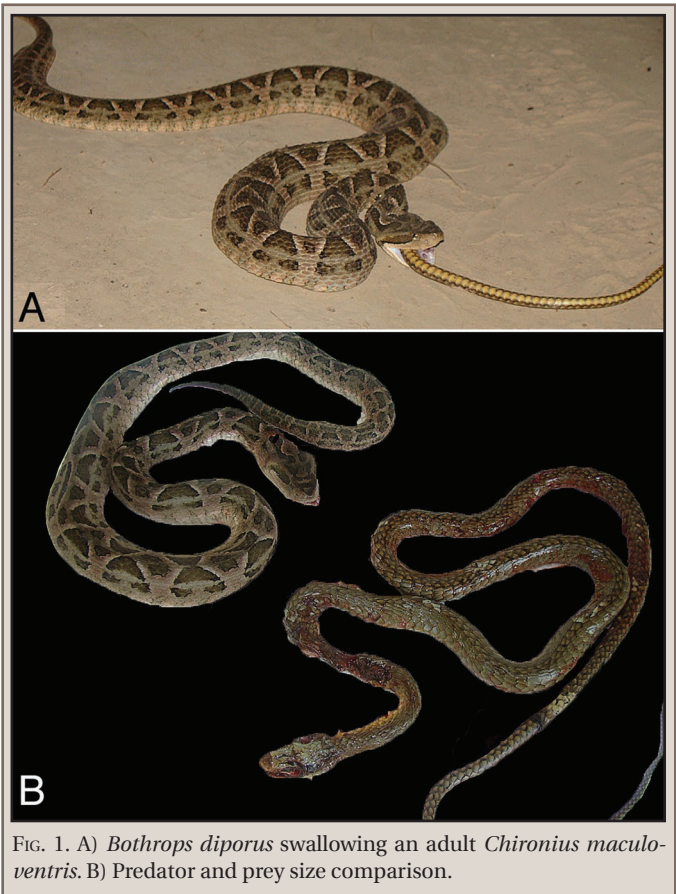


FIG. 1. A) *Bothrops diporus* swallowing an adult *Chironius maculiventris*. B) Predator and prey size comparison.