

juvenile *B. moojeni* was observed grasping an adult *S. fuscovarius* by the rear legs. When disturbed by our presence, the snake retreated into vegetation.

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CEMOPHORA COCCINEA COPEI (Northern Scarletsnake).

DIET. *Cemophora coccinea* is a small fossorial snake thought to feed largely on the eggs of other reptiles (Ernst and Ernst 2003. Snakes of the United States and Canada. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington D.C. 680 pp.). On 17 August 2007, while surveying a study site in Chesterfield Co., South Carolina, USA, I captured a female *C. coccinea* (349.25 mm total length; 8 g) crossing the road at night. Shortly after, I found a juvenile *Pantherophis guttatus* (total length = 279.4 mm; 5 g) that had recently been hit by a vehicle. Due to a lack of collection bags, I placed the dead *P. guttatus* in the same bag as the *C. coccinea*. Approximately 45 min later, I opened the bag and only found the *C. coccinea*; the *Cemophora* had eaten the *P. guttatus*. To our knowledge *P. guttatus* has not been documented in the diet of *C. coccinea* (Ernst and Ernst, *op. cit.*). Though ophiophagy has been reported in *C. coccinea* (Conant and Collins 1998. A Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians of Eastern and Central North America. Houghton Mifflin Co., New York. 616 pp.), it is very uncommon and has not been documented in any accounts from



FIG.1. *Cemophora coccinea* regurgitating a juvenile *Pantherophis guttatus*.

North or South Carolina (Palmer and Braswell 1995. Reptiles of North Carolina. Univ. North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill. 412 pp.; S. Bennett, pers. comm.). The prey item comprised 62.5% of the *C. coccinea*'s body weight.

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CHIRONIUS EXOLETUS (Vine Snake). REPRODUCTIVE BEHAVIOR.

Few data are available on the mating behavior of neotropical snakes in the wild (Greene 1997. Snakes: the Evolution of Mystery in Nature. University of California Press, Los Angeles. 351 pp.). In the Brazilian state of Rondônia, newborn *Chironius exoletus* have been found in November and February, and females with eggs and enlarged follicles have been observed from November through March (Bernarde and Abe 2006. S. Amer. J. Herpetol. 1:102–113).

On 6 September 2009 at 1730 h, in forest along the São Miguel River, Municipality of Seringueiras, Rondônia state, Brazil (12.0039722°S, 63.0351389°W; datum WGS84; elev. ca. 160 m), we observed a pair of *C. exoletus* on the ground engaged in courtship and mating (tactile-alignment, intromission, and coitus; Gillingham 1986. In Seigel et al. [eds.], Snakes: Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, pp. 184–209. McGraw Hill, New York). The duration of copulation was 27 min. Another unsexed adult *C. exoletus* was observed approximately 1 m away, resting about vegetation. The snakes were not captured.

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COLUBER CONSTRICTOR (North American Racer). CANNIBALISM AND DEFENSIVE BEHAVIOR.

Cannibalism by racers has been described in both field and laboratory conditions (Mitchell 1986. SSAR Herpetol. Circ. 15:1–37). Most reports are from stomach contents and lack behavioral observations. Cannibalism might occur as a byproduct of captive feeding, from a competitive interaction, or as direct consumptive behavior; therefore information describing these interactions is valuable. This observation is also the first documentation of an anchoring behavior used by *C. constrictor* as an attempt to avoid predation.

On 6 June 2008 at approximately 1030 h, I documented cannibalism between male *C. constrictor* at the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site, Aiken Co., South Carolina, USA. While driving on a gravel road, I observed a *C. constrictor* (SVL = 107 cm, total length = 143 cm) enter perpendicular to the road from the grassy edge in front of me. As I quickly halted the vehicle, the racer increased speed away from me parallel to the road's edge. The snake moved approximately 6 m and came to an abrupt stop at the road's edge where it attacked another smaller *C. constrictor* (SVL = 70 cm, total length = 98 cm). Following the attack and a short struggle, the larger snake and aggressor (hereafter Snake A) raised above the grass with the smaller snake (hereafter Snake B) in its grasp (~3 cm posterior to head). With raised anterior portions of body and Snake B in mouth, Snake A moved