

Leptodactylus macrosternum
MIRANDA-RIBEIRO, 1926, a fatal prey
for a juvenile *Crotalus durissus*
ruruima HOGE, 1966

Crotalus durissus ruruima HOGE, 1966, occurs in different landscapes along the north of the Amazon rainforest, comprising the very North of Brazil, Venezuela and the Cooperative Republic of Guyana (HOGE 1965; NASCIMENTO 2007). The prey of these typical sit and wait predators of predominantly crepuscular and nocturnal activity consists mainly of mammals of small size such as rodents and marsupials (SAZIMA, 1989; CLARK 2004; TOZZETTI 2006), however, birds and lizards have already been recorded in its diet (VANZOLINI et al. 1980; KLAUBER 1982).

On 11 July 2017, at 21:40 h, the authors found a juvenile male *C. d. ruruima*

(snout-vent-length 440 mm, tail length 49.5 mm) crossing the highway BR-401 at km 43 (2.994343° N, 60.428926° W) in Estado de Roraima, Brazil, when the snake began to regurgitate an adult individual of *Leptodactylus macrosternum* MIRANDA-RIBEIRO, 1926 (snout-vent-length 58 mm), considerably larger than the predator's headsize (25 mm) (Fig. 1). During this process the snake died, although injuries were not obvious. The snake and the frog were deposited at the National Institute of Amazonian Research (Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia, Manaus), Laboratory of Animal Genetics, under the following numbers: *Crotalus durissus ruruima*: LGA(S) - 262 and *Leptodactylus macrosternum*: LGA(A) - 016.

Ingestion of disproportionately big prey is a frequently observed cause of death in juveniles of various snake species (SAZIMA & MARTINS 1990). However, anuran



Fig. 1: The dead juvenile *Crotalus durissus ruruima* HOGE, 1966, and the regurgitated adult individual of *Leptodactylus macrosternum* MIRANDA-RIBEIRO, 1926.

skin glands contain poisons, as seen also in leptodactylids (PRATES et al. 2012). Thus, it may well be that beside the size of the prey, the death of the juvenile viper was caused by the frog's potentially toxic secretions. The prey type and size of the snake could indicate that juvenile *C. d. ruruima* are dietary generalists. Moreover, the authors recorded here for the first time an amphibian as prey of *C. d. ruruima*.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: The authors are grateful to Priscila Azarak (Laboratório de Evolução e Genética Animal, Universidade Federal do Amazonas - LEGAL/UFAM) who identified the frog species.

REFERENCES: CLARK, R. W. (2004): Timber rattlesnakes (*Crotalus horridus*) use chemical cues to select ambush sites.- *Journal of Chemical Ecology*, Ithaca, New York; 30 (3): 607-617. HOGE, A. R. (1965): Preliminary account on neotropical Crotalinae (Serpentes: Viperidae).- *Memórias do Instituto Butantan*, São Paulo; 32: 109-184. KLAUBER L. M. (1972): Rattlesnakes. Their habits, life histories and influence on mankind. Second edition. Berkeley (University of California Press), pp. 1536. NASCIMENTO, S. P. & NORONHA, M. D. N. & MUNIZ, E. G. & LÓPEZ-LOZANO, J. L. & ALVES-GOMES, J. A. (2007): Característica epidemiológica e clínica dos acidentes por serpentes peçonhentas no Estado de Roraima, Brasil.- *Mens Agitat / Academia Roraimense de Ciências*, Boa Vista; 2 (2): 43-54. PRATES, I. & ANTONIAZZI, M. M. & SCIANI, J. M. & PIMENTA, D. C. & TOLEDO, L. F. & HADDAD, C. F. & JARED, C. (2012): Skin glands, poison and mimicry in dendrobatid and leptodactylid amphibians.- *Journal of Morphology*, Malden, etc.; 273 (3): 279-290. SAZIMA, I. & MARTINS, M. (1990): Presas grandes e serpentes jovens: Quando os olhos são maiores que a boca.- *Memórias do Instituto Butantan*, São Paulo; 52 (3): 73-79. VAZOLINI, P. E. & RAMOS-COSTA, A. M. & VITT, L. J. (1980): Répteis das Caatingas. Rio de Janeiro (Academia Brasileira de Ciências), pp. 161.

KEY WORDS: Reptilia: Squamata: Serpentes: Viperidae: *Crotalus durissus ruruima*; feeding ecology, prey, veterinary medicine

SUBMITTED: February 17, 2018

AUTHORS: Anderson Maciel ROCHA (Corresponding author < amr.0609@gmail.com >¹⁾; Cleuner PARENTE DE FREITAS¹⁾ & Patrik F. VIANA^{2, 3)}

¹⁾ Faculdade Cathedral de Ensino Superior, Faculdade Cathedral, Laboratório de Zoologia Apli-cada de Vertebrados Terrestres e Aquáticos, Avenida Luis Canuto Chaves, 293, Caçari, CEP 69307-655, Boa Vista, RR, Brasil

²⁾ Laboratory of Animal Genetics, Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia - Campus II, Av. André Araújo, 2936, 69080-971 Manaus, AM, Brazil.

³⁾ Programa de Pós-Graduação em Genética Conservação e Biologia Evolutiva, Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia - Campus II, Av. André Araújo, 2936, 69080-971 Manaus, AM, Brazil.

ZOBODAT - www.zobodat.at

Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

Zeitschrift/Journal: [Herpetozoa](#)

Jahr/Year: 2019

Band/Volume: [31_3_4](#)

Autor(en)/Author(s): Rocha Anderson Maciel, Parente de Freitas Cleuner, Viana
Patrik F.

Artikel/Article: [Leptodactylus macrosternum MIRANDA-RIBEIRO, 1926, a fatal prey for a juvenile Crotalus durissus ruruima HOGE, 1966 219-220](#)