



FIG. 1. *Nerodia sipedon* caught in grasp of a Rabbitsfoot Mussel, *Quadrula cylindrica*.

fish movements, all the while attracting the piscivorous fish that are the host for their larvae (Haag and Warren 1999. *Freshwater Biol.* 41:1–6). However, these species interactions rarely end in the death of the vertebrate.

On 13 July 2006 we found a *Nerodia sipedon* that might have attempted to strike at a displaying rabbitsfoot mussel (*Quadrula cylindrica*) at a site in the Little River in southeast Oklahoma, USA. The snake's jaw was caught in the grasp of the mussel's valves (Fig. 1), and the snake was dead, likely from drowning in the several inches of water where they were found. Given that *Q. cylindrica* larvae parasitize small fish in the genus *Cyprinella*, and that they have been reported to brood larvae and display from May to July (Parmalee and Bogan 1998, *op. cit.*), we believe that the mussel's display behavior was in part responsible for the snake's death. Because northern *N. sipedon* are known to feed on small fish (Sievert and Sievert 1993. *Reptiles of Oklahoma*. Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. 104 pp.), we think it is possible that the snake was striking at a fish that was attracted to the displaying mussel. Alternatively, the snake could have thought that the mussel's display itself was an appropriate food item, and struck at the display. Somewhat less likely is the possibility that the snake thought the whole mussel could have been its prey. When any foreign object is thrust into the opening of a mussel shell, the mussel almost always closes its valves. To our knowledge this is the first report of a snake being killed by a mussel and the first time any of us have seen anything like this in our 30+ years of experience of field work in rivers and streams.

We thank the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation for financial assistance.

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NERODIA TAXISPILOTA (Brown Watersnake). **DIET.** *Nerodia taxispilota* is known to feed primarily on fish, particularly catfish

(Ictaluridae; Camp et al. 1980. *J. Herpetol.* 14:301–304). Herein, we report *N. taxispilota* feeding on an invasive catfish previously undocumented as a prey species.

On 17 May 2007 at 1730 h, one of us (AT) observed an adult *N. taxispilota* (ca. 80 cm total length) on the bank of the Ichawaynochaway Creek at the Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research Center, Baker County, Georgia, USA. The snake was holding the anterior end of a live *Pyloodictis olivaris* (Flathead Catfish, ca. 20 cm TL). Over the course of ca. 1 h, the *N. taxispilota* swallowed half the catfish. *Pyloodictis olivaris* is an introduced invasive in the Flint River and its tributaries, including Ichawaynochaway Creek.

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PLIOCERCUS ELAPOIDES AEQUALIS (Variegated False Coralsnake). **DIET.** *Pliocercus elapoides* is a wide ranging and variable mimic of venomous coralsnakes. It inhabits rainforest and cloud forest slopes in México and Central America.

On 24 June 2007 at 0900 h we observed a male *P. elapoides aequalis* (287 mm SVL, 496 mm total length) feeding on a ca. 28 mm SVL *Gastrophryne elegans* (Microhylidae; Elegant Narrow-mouthed Toad). The observation was made on a narrow dirt path at the edge of tropical rainforest near Laguna Escondida, Los Tuxtlas, Veracruz, Mexico (18.5908°N, 95.0882°W, 150 m elev., WGS84). The snake held the anterior body portion of the dead frog inside its mouth and spent ten minutes to swallow it completely. The event was photographed and the snake was measured and released.

It is known that *P. elapoides* feed on amphibians. Stuart (1948. *Misc. Publ. Mus. Zool. Univ. Michigan* 69:1–109) and Duellman (1963. *Univ. Kansas Publ. Mus. Nat. Hist.* 15:205–249), mentioned that in Guatemala *P. elapoides* diet consists of salamanders of the genus *Bolitoglossa*. Also, Seib (1985. Unpubl. Ph.D. dissertation, Univ. California, Berkeley. 229 pp.) reported *Bolitoglossa* and *Eleutherodactylus* parts and terrestrial amphibian eggs in Chiapas (southern México) and adjacent Guatemala as stomach contents. This is the first record of *Gastrophryne elegans* in the diet of this species.

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SIPHLOPHIS COMPRESSUS (Red-eyed Liana Snake). **CANNIBALISM.** *Siphlophis compressus* is a rare, primarily nocturnal and often arboreal forest colubrid occurring from Costa Rica south to Brazil, including Trinidad (Martins and Oliveira 1999. *Herpetol. Nat. Hist.* 6:78–150; Boos 2001. *Snakes of Trinidad and Tobago*. Texas A&M University Press, College Station, Texas; Solórzano 2005. *Snakes of Costa Rica*. Instituto Nacional de Biodiversidad, Costa Rica). Data on the diet of *S. compressus* indicate that the species is primarily a lizard specialist