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INDOTYPHLOPS BRAMINUS (Brahminy Blindsnake) and **DINODON RUFOZONATUM** (= *LYCODON RUFOZONATUS*) (Red-banded Snake). **PREDATION and DIET.** *Indotyphlops braminus* and *Dinodon rufozonatum* are both native species that are widely distributed in Taiwan. *Indotyphlops braminus* is known to be a ground-dwelling species and *D. rufozonatum* is considered a terrestrial generalist, preying on insects, fish, frogs, toads, snakes, lizards, and birds (Kidera and Ota 2008. Current Herpetol. 27:23–27; Tu 2004. Big Surprise of Snakes. Yuan-Liou Publishing Co. Ltd., Taipei. 279 pp.). Here we report an unusual case of predation by *D. rufozonatum* on *I. braminus* and excretion of the *I. braminus* through the cloaca without digestion.

The *Dinodon rufozonatum* (female; SVL = 582 mm; 47 g) was captured at Chinyang Farm, Shoufeng Township, Hualien County, Taiwan (23.90632°N, 121.50896°E; WGS84) at 1910 h on 20 August 2017 while crawling across a cement floor. When we palpated its stomach, we noticed a small item that seemed like the head of a blindsnake emerging from its cloaca. After confirming that the item was not a part of an organ of *D. rufozonatum* and was not moving, we used forceps to gently remove the item. The item was identified as an adult *I. braminus*, which was ca. 155 mm in total length (Fig. 1). In addition to the *I. braminus*, two leathery egg shells fell out of the cloaca. Although the *I. braminus* was already dead before being pulled out, the individual was almost uninjured except for a few body parts that seemed to be compressed, causing slight damage. The evidence suggests that *I. braminus* passed through the stomach and intestine of *D. rufozonatum* without digestion.

As far as we know, our observation is the first case of this phenomenon confirmed in a snake that had fed on an *I. braminus*. Amazingly, similar cases have been reported in which *I. braminus* have been swallowed by a predator and remained intact after passing through the digestive system. Two species of toads, *Duttaphrynus melanostictus* (O’Shea et al. 2013. Herpetol. Notes 6:467–470) and *Rhinella marina* (Zlotnik et al. 2017. Herpetol. Rev. 48:675), excreted intact *I. braminus*. In the *D. melanostictus* case, the *I. braminus* remained alive for a while after struggling out of the cloaca under its own power. Based on these cases, we assume that *I. braminus* may have specialized scale structures that delay digestion by predators, which gives it limited time to escape the predator’s digestive system. Further work on the morphological and physiological adaptations of *I. braminus* are required to test this hypothesis.

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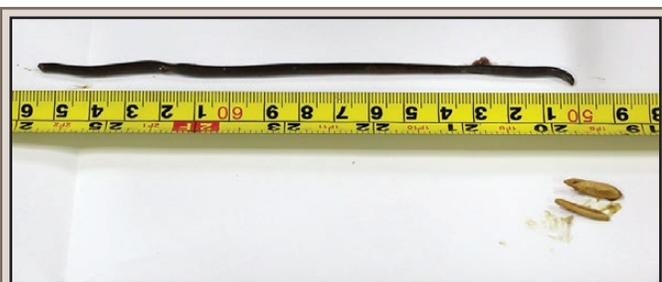


FIG. 1. *Indotyphlops braminus* excreted from the cloaca of *Dinodon rufozonatum*. Two leathery egg shells were also excreted from the cloaca after pulling out the *I. braminus*.

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LAMPROPELTIS MICROPHOLIS (Ecuadorian Milksnake, Falsa Coral Interandina). **DIET.** *Lampropeltis micropholis* is a member of the *L. triangulum* complex and is distributed from eastern Costa Rica, throughout Panama, and south to Ecuador (Ruane et al. 2014. Syst. Biol. 63:231–250). In Colombia, *L. micropholis* occurs between the Caribbean Coast and the western flank of the Cordillera Occidental (Western Cordillera), occupying the inter-Andean valleys of the Cauca and Magdalena rivers basin, and both Occidental and Central cordilleras (Dunn 1944. Caldasia 3:155–224; Rojas-Morales 2012. Phyllomedusa 11:135–154). Species in the *L. triangulum* complex in Mexico and the United States are known to consume a wide array of small mammals, lizards, snakes, birds and their eggs, and occasionally amphibians, fish, and invertebrates (Ernst and Ernst 2003. Snake of the United States and Canada. Smithsonian Books, Washington, D.C. 668 pp.; Rodríguez and Drummond 2000. J. Herpetol. 34:139–142; Aguilar-López and Pineda 2013. Herpetol. Notes. 6:89–90), but information on the ecology and diet of *L. micropholis* is lacking. Herein we present the first record of consumption of *Mus musculus* (House Mouse; Rodentia: Muridae) by *L. micropholis*.

On 15 April 2016, a female *L. micropholis* (total length = 730 mm; SVL = 630 mm; Fig. 1), was killed by a farmer at the Tesorito farm (5.03156°N, 75.44865°W, WGS 84; elev. 2164 m), Manizales, Cordillera Central of Colombia. The specimen was deposited at the Museo de Historia Natural de la Universidad de Caldas (MHNUC-0302). There, MSCO and JMHL opened the specimen and found a mouse consumed headfirst. The mouse was identified by HERC as a juvenile (last molars not erupted) *Mus musculus*, based on the presence of molars with cusps organized in three longitudinal rows, and small body size (head and body length = 60 mm; tail length = 63 mm). *Mus musculus* is an exotic species in Andean ecosystems of the Cordillera Central of Colombia.

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FIG. 1. House mouse (*Mus musculus*) preyed upon by a female *Lampropeltis micropholis* from the Cordillera Central of Colombia.

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