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PHOLIDOSCELIS ATRATA (Redonda Ground Lizard). DIET. *Pholidoscelis atrata* (formerly *Ameiva atrata*) is endemic to the small, uninhabited island of Redonda, which is owned by Antigua and Barbuda (Bell and Daltry 2012. Feasibility study for the eradication of black rats *Rattus rattus* from Redonda. Offshore Islands Conservation Programme). As such, relatively little is known of its natural history and diet. Here, we report an unusual predation event: *P. atrata* eating a hermit crab (*Coenobita clypeatus*).

At 0727 h on 26 February 2017, a male *P. atrata* was observed tearing apart and consuming a large hermit crab (Fig. 1). The event took place in a boulder field near our encampment (16.93576°N, 62.34570°E, WGS 84; 135 m elev.) where many hermit crabs were active following rain showers during the night. When we noticed the feeding event, the crab had already been removed from its shell. Over several minutes, we observed the *P. atrata* focus its attention on the abdomen of the crab, eventually consuming the majority of that portion of the animal. The *P. atrata* avoided eating the claws or legs of the crab and left both after consuming the body and tail.

Ground lizards are well-known carnivores and scavengers with wide-ranging opportunistic diets that can include insects, spiders, land snails, eggs, and carrion (Lewis 1989. *J. Herpetol.* 23:164–170; Vitt and Zani 1996. *J. Herpetol.* 30:110–117). On Redonda they have been observed feeding on bird and fish carrion, beetles, and moths (Bell and Daltry 2012, *op. cit.*). To our knowledge, however, this is the first documentation of *Pholidoscelis (Ameiva)* consumption of hermit crabs, and certainly represents a new observation for the species living on the island of Redonda. This observation highlights the opportunistic nature of the diet of lizards on small islands and the propensity of these lizards to include hard or difficult to ingest or even dangerous prey in their diet (Castilla and Herrel 2009. *J. Arid Environ.* 73:378–380).



FIG. 1. *Pholidoscelis atrata* biting into a hermit crab (*Coenobita clypeatus*).

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PHRYNOSOMA CORNUTUM (Texas Horned Lizard). PREDATION. There are many known predators of *Phrynosoma cornutum* including snake species such as *Crotalus atrox* (Western Diamondback Rattlesnake), *Crotalus cerastes* (Sidewinder), *Masticophis* spp. (whipsnakes), and *Heterodon nasicus* (Plains Hognosed Snake; Sherbrooke 2003. Introduction to Horned Lizards of North America. University of California Press, Berkeley, California. 177 pp.; Sherbrooke et al. 2004. *Copeia* 2004:652–658; Adams et al. 2015. *Herpetol. Rev.* 46:645). Herein we report two new predators of *P. cornutum*.



FIG. 1. An x-ray of an *Agkistrodon contortrix* after ingesting a *Phrynosoma cornutum* with radio-transmitter and passive integrated transponder (PIT) tag.

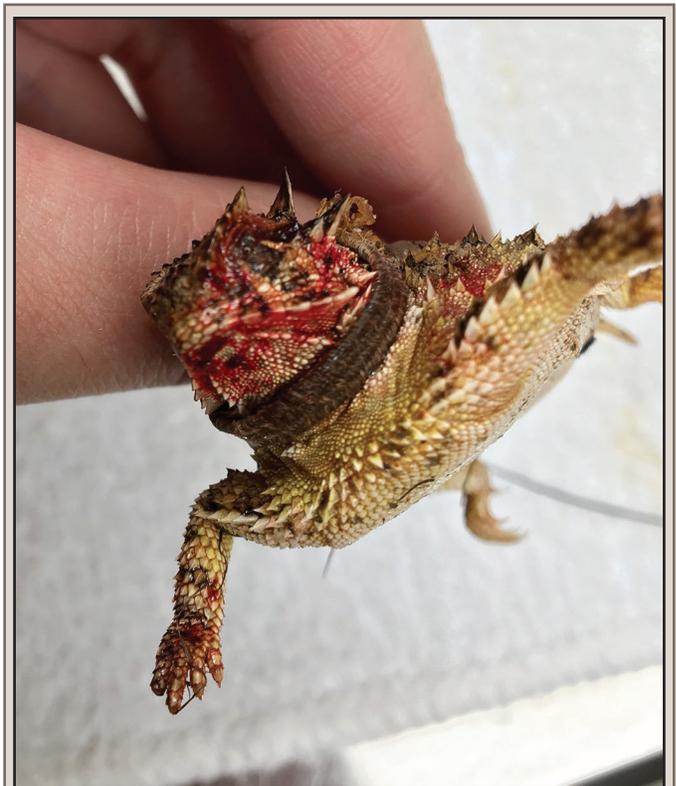


FIG. 2. Blood squirting behavior of a juvenile *Phrynosoma cornutum* following a *Lampropeltis holbrooki* attack and ingestion.