



FIG. 2. A–B) Dead individuals of *Natrix natrix* in northeastern Czech Republic in 2004. C) Road with a high curb near Petrův pond, which represents a deadly trap for local reptiles.

**OPHEODRYS AESTIVUS (Rough Greensnake). NOCTURNAL FORAGING.** *Opheodrys aestivus* is a species of small, arboreal snake found throughout the southeastern USA. It is generally considered to be a visually oriented hunter, moving through dense foliage to consume a wide variety of arthropod prey such as caterpillars and spiders (Plummer 1981 J. Herpetol. 154:425–432). However, at least one observation suggests *O. aestivus* may rely on chemical cues to track prey in the absence of visual

stimuli (Durso 2010 Herpetol. Rev. 41:95–96). One study which involved careful observation of their behavior in the field has suggested this is an entirely diurnal species, foraging during the day, and sleeping at night (Plummer, *op. cit.*). Here we report an observation of nocturnal foraging by *O. aestivus*.

At 2130 h on 30 August 2017, at Joyce Wildlife Management Area in Tangipahoa Parish, Louisiana, USA (30.400°N, 90.429°W; WGS 84) we observed an individual *O. aestivus* (SVL ca. 350 mm) displaying what we believe to be nocturnal foraging behavior in foliage surrounding a gravel lot. The gravel lot is adjacent to a large tract of cypress-tupelo swamp and slightly elevated relative to the surrounding area. The snake was found while scanning foliage with a flashlight, and was initially spotted outstretched on the distal portion of a low hanging Sugarberry (*Celtis laevigata*) branch approximately 1.5 m off the ground. The snake was slowly moving towards the trunk of the tree while vigorously flicking its tongue. We observed the snake as it moved up the branch and after approximately 1 min the snake attempted to depredate a small inchworm (Lepidoptera: Geometridae; total length ca. 15 mm), which was initially seized, but quickly dropped because the snake overshot and bit onto the branch. We continued to observe the snake for a brief period (ca. 2 min) as it continued to crawl slowly along the branch. This behavior occurred under artificial lighting but in otherwise natural and undisturbed settings 2 h after sunset (1926 h).

At night, *O. aestivus* typically adopt a coiled sleeping position in trees and shrubbery (Plummer, *op. cit.*). The outstretched posture of this individual upon observation was consistent with previously reported foraging behavior for this species (Plummer, *op. cit.*). Given the vigorous tongue flicking we witnessed at the outset of our observation, and immediacy of the attempted predation following initial detection, we believe this individual was likely using vomerofaction to forage for insects in the dark. We are not aware of other observations describing nocturnal foraging in this species, and believe this to be an unusual behavior for the species, given the lack of prior note in the literature and remarks by herpetologists in the region (B. Glorioso, pers. comm.).

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**PHILODRYAS OLFERSII (Lichtenstein's Green Racer). DEFENSIVE BEHAVIOR.** *Philodryas olfersii* is an opisthoglyphous snake, widely distributed in the Neotropics. It has primarily diurnal habits and occupies both terrestrial and arboreal habitats (Hartmann and Marques 2005. Amphibia-Reptilia 26:25–31). Its defensive repertoire includes cloacal discharge, venomous bite, and escape (Marques et al. 2001. Serpentes da Mata Atlântica: Guia Ilustrado para a Serra do Mar. Holos, Ribeirão Preto. 184 pp.; Pontes and Rocha 2008. Serpentes da Serra do Mendanha, Rio de Janeiro, RJ: ecologia e conservação. Technical Books, Rio de Janeiro. 147 pp.; Bernarde 2014. Serpentes peçonhentas e acidentes ofídicos no Brasil. Anolisbooks, São Paulo. 224 pp.) On 27 November 2015, at approximately 1600 h, we observed two individuals of *P. olfersii* at the edge of a forest stream in the municipality of Rosario do Sul (30.2664°S, 54.9441°W, WGS84; elev. 220 m), state of Rio Grande do Sul, southern Brazil. The first individual was observed on a large rock. Sensing our approach, it plunged into the water from a height of ca. 40 cm. The