

MICRURUS DISTANS DISTANS (West Mexican Coralsnake).

DIET. Endemic to western Mexico, *Micrurus distans* occurs at low to moderate elevations from southwestern Chihuahua and southern Sonora, southward on the Pacific drainage through Sinaloa, Nayarit, Jalisco, Colima, and Michoacán to Guerrero (Ernst and Ernst 2011. *Venomous Reptiles of the United States, Canada, and Northern Mexico: Volume 1*. Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, Maryland. 392 pp.). The diet of this terrestrial species is comprised predominantly of snakes (Roze 1996. *Coral Snake of the Americas: Biology, Identification, and Venoms*. Krieger Publishing Co., Malabar, Florida. 340 pp.). Herein, we report the first documented instance of predation on *Drymarchon melanurus* (Central American Indigo Snake) by *M. d. distans*.

At 0940 h on 25 August 2014, we found an adult female *M. d. distans* (SVL = 770 mm; UCM AC-184; Fig. 1A) 1 km E of Alamos, Sonora, Mexico (27.02365°N, 108.92466°W; WGS 84). Later the same day, the snake disgorged a hatchling-sized *D. melanurus* (SVL ca. 457 mm; UCM AC-185) that had been swallowed head-first (Fig. 1B). To our knowledge, this is the first report of *D. melanurus* in the diet of *M. d. distans*.

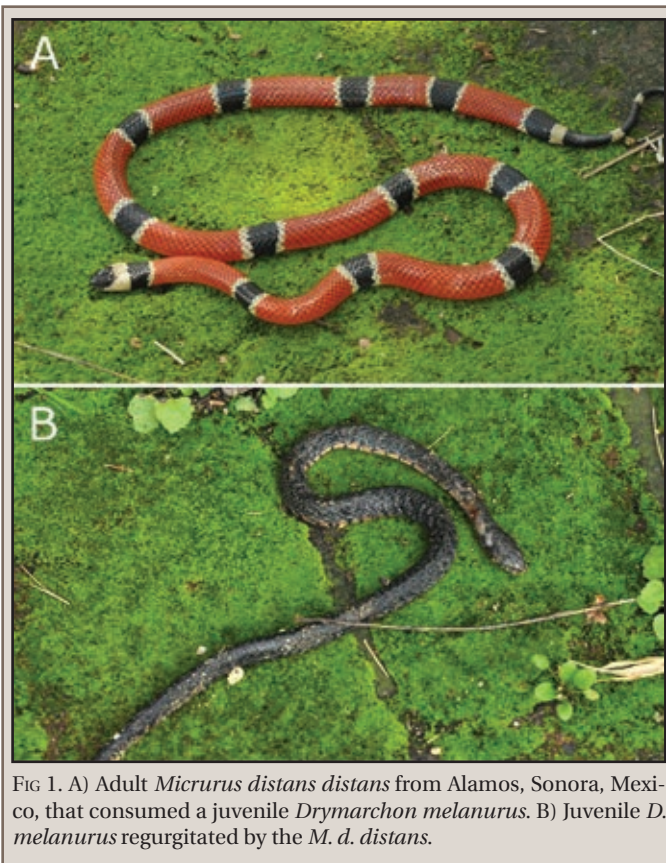


FIG 1. A) Adult *Micrurus distans distans* from Alamos, Sonora, Mexico, that consumed a juvenile *Drymarchon melanurus*. B) Juvenile *D. melanurus* regurgitated by the *M. d. distans*.

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MICRURUS MIPARTITUS (Red-tailed Coral Snake, Coral Rabo de Ají). **DIET / OPHIOPHAGY.** Coral snakes are predators of elongate vertebrates such as snakes, fishes, caecilians, lizards, and amphisbaenians (Savage 2002. *The Amphibians*

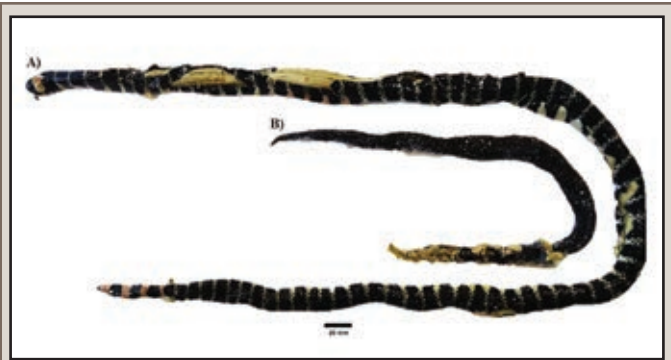


FIG. 1. Adult *Micrurus mipartitus* (A) with stomach contents, an adult female *Atractus manizalesensis* (B).

and Reptiles of Costa Rica: A Herpetofauna between Two Continents, between Two Seas. University of Chicago Press, Chicago, Illinois. 704 pp.). It is presumed that *Micrurus mipartitus* preys on other snakes in its natural environment (Guyer and Donnelly 2004. *Amphibians and Reptiles of La Selva, Costa Rica, and the Caribbean Slope*. University of California Press, Berkeley. 367 pp.), with data on consumption of *Atractus* snakes in captivity (Ayerbe et al. 1990. *Nov. Colomb.* 2:30–41). It has also been reported that *M. mipartitus* feeds upon on amphibians such as *Caecilia thompsoni* (Hernando-Bernal and Milena-Palma 2011. *Herpetol. Rev.* 42:617) and *Gymnopsis multiplicata* (Saporito 2007. *Herpetol. Rev.* 38:199). Herein, we document the snake *Atractus manizalesensis* as prey of *M. mipartitus* in a natural environment.

On 30 July 2013, we found a dead adult male *M. mipartitus* (MHN-UC 255; SVL = 753.7 mm; total length = 758 mm) on an unpaved road at Vereda Floresta, municipality of Villamaría, Department of Caldas, Colombia (5.0205138°N, 75.5225305°W, WGS84; 1790 m elev.). Its stomach contained an adult female *A. manizalesensis* (Fig. 1; MHN-UC 256; total length = 323 mm), partially digested in the anterior region and ingested headfirst; it represented ca. 42.6% of the predator's total length. The specimens are housed in Museo de Historia Natural de la Universidad de Caldas (MHN-UC), Manizales, Colombia.

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NERODIA SIPEDON (Northern Watersnake). SCAVENGERS.

Some *Limenitis* species of butterfly are known to feed on carrion (Downes 1973. *J. Lepidopterists Soc.* 27:89–99), and in the past lepidopterists have used decomposing snakes hung from trees to attract uncommon woodland species (Clark 1932. *The Butterflies of the District of Columbia and Vicinity*. U.S. Natl. Mus., Bull. 157, 337 pp.). However, here I present the first known observation of *Limenitis* (i.e., *Limenitis arthemis astyanax*; Red-Spotted Purple Butterfly) feeding on *Nerodia sipedon*. On 28 July 2013, a *L. a. astyanax* was observed scavenging on a roadkilled subadult *N. sipedon* in Mahwah City, Bergen Co., New Jersey, USA. The butterfly was observed feeding for approximately 90 min on areas of exposed muscle tissue where skin had been torn away by vehicles. Adult Lepidoptera can only imbibe solutions with particles small