photographed. The location was a narrow beach with some sparse grasses and was ca. 10 m east of the gulf and 2 m west of a shallow tidal marsh.

Lampropeltis getula has previously been recorded as a predator of eggs of *M. terrapin*. On Jekyll Island, Georgia, USA, Ballard et al. (2018, *op. cit.*) found two direct observations of *L. getula* depredating terrapin nests, along with the presence of eggshells in a snake radiograph and in the feces of another individual snake. Although details were lacking, Roosenburg et al. (2015. Terrapin monitoring at the Paul S. Sarbanes ecosystem restoration project at Poplar Island. Report to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) attributed 27 of 55 (49%) depredated terrapin nests to *L. getula* on Poplar Island, Maryland, USA. Roosenburg (pers. comm.) also found >20 kingsnakes in terrapin nesting areas at Poplar Island in a single field season in 2024. Finally, Eastern Kingsnakes have been observed depredating terrapin nests over several years on an artificial nesting beach near Charleston, South Carolina, USA (D. Anderson, pers. comm.).

Although our observation of *L. getula* feeding on *M. terrapin* eggs is not in itself novel, we were able to observe and describe the actual predation event and extend previous findings of this trophic link to Florida and to the Gulf Coast. Furthermore, we possibly extend this trophic link to a new snake species. Recent research by Krysko et al. (2017. Heredity 108:226–238) suggests that the snake we observed may be a new species (*L. floridana*) distinct from *L. getula*. Moreover, our observations along with those of others (above) support the suggestion that terrapin eggs are a common prey item for Eastern Kingsnakes (Ballard et al. 2018, *op. cit.*).

While the predominant prey group for *L. getula* may be other snakes, there may be geographic variation in prey availability and thus diet (Linehan et al 2010. Herpetol. Conserv. Biol. 5:94–101). For example, although terrapins are restricted to coastal areas between Massachusetts and Texas, USA, freshwater turtle nests are common throughout the range of *L. getula* and would presumably require similar search tactics as used for finding terrapin nests.

Collectively, our observations from the Gulf Coast and those from the Atlantic Coast suggest that the eggs of *M. terrapin* may be a more common food source for coastal *L. getula* (and possibly *L. floridana*) than previously thought. Accordingly, kingsnakes may prey upon turtle eggs in general more readily than appreciated, given the secretive nature of both snakes and most nesting turtles (Doody et al. 2021. The Secret Social Lives of Reptiles. Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, Maryland. 400 pp.).

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***LEPTODEIRA BAKERI* (Aruba Cat-eyed Snake). DIET and FEEDING BEHAVIOR.** *Leptodeira bakeri* is a terrestrial and semi-arboreal opisthoglyphous colubrid that occurs in Aruba and Venezuela (Jiménez-Bolaño et al. 2024. Revista Latinoamericana de Herpetología 7:54–65). *Leptodeira* species are primarily nocturnal and consume a variety of prey, including fish, birds, snakes, lizards, and anurans. The venom of *L. bakeri* is potent compared to the venom of species of the family Viperidae, like *Crotalus atrox*, *C. molossus*, and *Agkistrodon contortrix*, and produces very strong hemorrhagic lesions in mice tissues, resulting in death in a matter of 55 to 75 min (Estrella et al. 2011. Russian J. Herpetol. 18:51–58). Some species of rear-fanged snakes use constriction in addition to venom to facilitate prey capture (Modal et al. 2016. Venom Genomics and Proteomics. Springer Science+Business Media, Dordrecht, Netherlands. 23 pp.). *Cnemidophorus arubensis* (Aruba Whiptail Lizard or Cododo) is a Teiid species and a common endemic on the island of Aruba. *Leptodeira bakeri* might prey on juvenile *Cnemidophorus*, but no direct observations have been made (Schall 1975. Studies on the Fauna of Curaçao and other Caribbean Islands 46:94–108).

PHOTO BY ALEXANDER ALKEN.

FIG. 1. *Leptodeira bakeri* constricting a *Cnemidophorus arubensis* before devouring the lizard.

At 0836 h on 11 April 2025, during a visit to Arikok National Park, Aruba (12.49500°N, 69.91100°W; WGS 84; 12.1 m elev.), a *L. bakeri* (ca. 60 cm total length) was observed constricting a large *C. arubensis* (ca. 20–25 cm total length). The snake was coiled tightly around the lizard, constricting it, and was biting the prey's upper body (Fig. 1). After ca. 11 min, the snake loosened its coils. The lizard didn't seem to be totally dead, but this might have been due to convulsions of the nerves in its body. The snake, probably annoyed by the photographer, partially retreated under a cement stone, where it started swallowing the lizard, eventually consuming it by 0905 h. This observation confirms predation by *L. bakeri* on *C. arubensis*.

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***LEPTOPHIS OCCIDENTALIS* (Western Parrot Snake). DIET.** The genus *Leptophis* currently comprises 19 recognized species (Uetz et al. [eds.] 2024. The Reptile Database, http://www.reptile-database.org, 1 June 2025). In Colombia, this genus is represented by six species, among which *Leptophis occidentalis* stands out as one of the most common and widely distributed. This species ranges from the Atlantic coast of Central America to the northern and western parts of South America. In Colombia, it has been recorded at altitudes below 2400 m in the departments of Antioquia, Bolívar, Boyacá, Caldas, Chocó, Cundinamarca, Magdalena, Meta, and Valle del Cauca (Albuquerque et al. 2022.

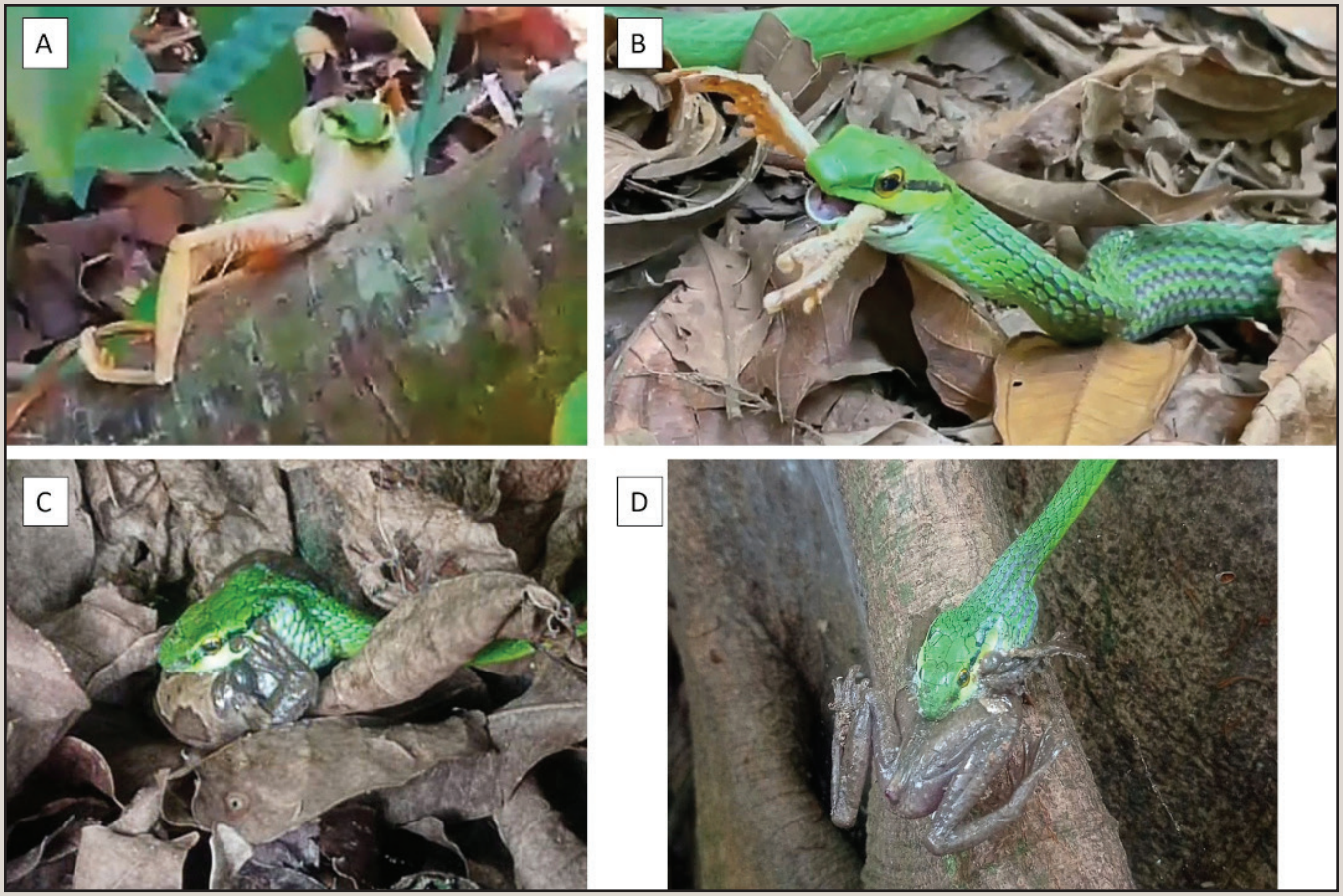

Fig. 1. Predation by *Leptophis occidentalis* on *Boana platanera* (A, B) and *Trachycephalus typhonius* (C, D).

Zootaxa 5153:1–69, Uetz et al. 2024, *op. cit.*). It is a semi-arboreal diurnal snake, commonly observed in trees and shrubs in a wide variety of habitats, including tropical and subtropical forests (Albuquerque et al. 2022, *op. cit.*).

The genus *Leptophis* is distinguished by its varied diet, which includes a range of small to medium-sized vertebrates. Hylid frogs are their main prey, although records of lizards and birds have also been documented (Albuquerque et al. 2007. J. Nat. Hist. 41:1237–1243; Gómez-Hoyos et al. 2015. Herpetol. Notes 8:297–301; Oliveira et al. 2021. Biota Amazônia 11:37–39). The diet of *L. occidentalis* is not well studied. Predation on frogs such as *Agalychnis saltator*, *Pristimantis achatinus*, and *Trachycephalus vermiculatus* has been documented (Roberts 1994. J. Herpetol. 28:193–199; Verhoeff 2010. Herpetol. Rev. 41:477–478; Hernández-Sánchez and Guevara-Alvarado 2022. Rev. Latinoam. Herpetol. 5:56–59; Arteaga 2023. Reptiles of Ecuador, https://www.reptilesofecuador.com/leptophis_occidentalis.html), as has the consumption of egg clutches of *A. spurrelli* and *A. callidryas* (Gómez-Mestre and Warkentin 2007. Behav. Ecol. 153:197–209). There is also a record of predation on the bird *Stilpnia larvata* (Matheus et al. 1996. Ornitologia Neotropical 7:163–164). In this study, we report the first records of predation by *L. occidentalis* on *Boana platanera* and *Trachycephalus typhonius*.

On 31 January 2021, at 1130 h, an individual of *B. platanera* was observed being preyed upon by a *L. occidentalis* near the Jordan River in the Municipality of Jamundí, Valle del Cauca, Colombia (3.2464°N, 76.5975°W; WGS 84; 1049 m elev.). Initially, rapid movement by *L. occidentalis* was observed as it captured the *B. platanera* by the head (Fig. 1A, B). The frog attempted to escape by moving and jumping with its extremities but eventually became immobile, at which point the snake proceeded to ingest it headfirst over a span of 10 min.

On 17 March 2023, at 1328 h, an individual of *T. typhonius* was observed being preyed upon by an *L. occidentalis* in the Municipality of Palomino, Guajira, Colombia (11.2403°N, 73.5594°W; WGS 84; 26 m elev.). When the observer found the snake, it had already captured the prey by the head. They were found in the branches of a tree; however, they then fell to the roots of the tree, where the event continued (Fig. 1C, D) ca. 1 m above the ground. The frog attempted to escape by moving and jumping, but it was eventually consumed headfirst over the span of 22 min.

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***MASTICOPHIS LATERALIS* (Striped Racer). PUTATIVE COMBAT.** Aggressive behaviors are rarely observed in wild snakes. Though male-male aggression has been documented in at least 76 snake species comprising 5 families (Senter et al. 2014. PloS One 9:e107528), its prevalence nevertheless remains