

the open spaces. Species of lizards in addition to *A. neomexicana* at this locality were *Aspidoscelis marmorata* (= *C. tigris marmoratus*; Marbled Whiptail) and *Uta stansburiana* (Common Side-blotched Lizard).

The habitat for *A. neomexicana* at Horizon Lake was similar to the habitat for the species near Hueco Tanks State Park where the species was abundant. However, specimens of *A. neomexicana* collected from Hudspeth Co. only a few miles to the east of Horizon Lake were on bajada slopes of the Hueco Mountains with a gravelly to rocky substrate. Dominant plants here were Creosote Bush (*Larrea tridentata*), Fluff Grass (*Erioneuron pulchellum*), Viscid Acacia (*Acacia neovernicosa*), Prickly Pear (*Opuntia* sp.), Lechuguilla (*Agave lechuguilla*), and some Torrey Yucca (*Yucca torreyi*). Associated lizards at this locality in addition to *A. neomexicana* were *Aspidoscelis exsanguis* (Chihuahuan Spotted Whiptail), *Aspidoscelis inornata* (Little Striped Whiptail), *Cophosaurus texanus* (Greater Earless Lizard), and *Phynosoma modestum* (Round-tailed Horned Lizard). For collections via pit-fall/drift fence trapping along the Hueco Mountain foot slopes and drainages, *Coleonyx brevis* (Texas Banded Gecko) was one of the most prominent lizard species present.

The occupation of both playa and outwash habitats by *A. neomexicana* in the areas of El Paso and Hudspeth counties well removed from the Rio Grande fits in perfectly with Axtell's (1966, *op. cit.*) description of the fidelity to playa habitats of the species in the southern portion of its range. The syntopy of *A. neomexicana* with other congeners at these sites also corroborates Axtell's discussion.

We thank Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for permission granted to JEC and DAB to collect specimens of *A. neomexicana* in Texas. Much of the descriptions of habitats for *A. neomexicana* presented herein were contributed by JFS.

JAMES M. WALKER, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701, USA (e-mail: jmwalker@uark.edu); **JAMES E. CORDES**, Division of Sciences and Mathematics, Louisiana State University Eunice, Eunice Louisiana 70535, USA (e-mail: jcordes@lsue.edu); **DOUGLAS W. BURKETT**, P.O. Box 399, White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico 88002, USA (e-mail: doug.w.burkett.ctr@mail.mil); **JAMES F. SCUDDAY** (deceased), Department of Biology, Sul Ross University, P.O. Box C-114, Alpine, Texas 79832, USA.

ASPIDOSCELIS VELOX (Plateau Striped Whiptail). BIFURCATION. *Aspidoscelis velox*, a triploid hybrid-derived parthenogenetic species (Moritz et al. 1989. *Evolution* 43:958–968), has a natural range extending from the four corners area into contiguous parts of Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, and Utah, and it has been introduced in Oregon (Stebbins 2003. *A Field Guide to Western Reptiles and Amphibians*, 3rd ed. Houghton Mifflin Co., New York, New York. 533 pp.). In a sample of *A. velox* (= *Cnemidophorus innotatus*, sensu Wright 1993. In J. W. Wright and L. J. Vitt [eds.], *Biology of Whiptail Lizards*, pp. 27–81. Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, Norman, Oklahoma) from 11.5 km N of Kanab and west of US Hwy 89 in the vicinity (37.14726°N, 112.57979°W; 1693 ± 2 m elev.) of Coral Pink Sands State Park, Kane Co., southern central Utah, are two preserved lizards (University of Arkansas Department of Zoology, UADZ 9168 of 87 mm SVL from 26 July 2012 and 9176 of 58 mm SVL from 27 July 2012), each with a with a caudal bifurcation. Unlike the very small representation of one branch of this anomaly in a specimen of *Ameiva ameiva* reported by Gogliath et al. (2012. *Herpetol. Rev.* 43:128–129), both individuals of *A. velox* have conspicuously developed bifurcations. In the large third or fourth year adult



FIG. 1. Noteworthy specimens of *Aspidoscelis velox* (= *Cnemidophorus innotatus* [sensu Wright *op. cit.*]) from Kane Co., Utah: UADZ 9168 (adult of 87 mm SVL) with short distorted original and supernumerary branches distal to bifurcation of the tail; UADZ 9176 (subadult of 58 mm SVL) with elongated original (63 mm) and supernumerary (57 mm) branches distal to bifurcation of the tail. During collection, the tail of each lizard was inadvertently broken, following which a small section was removed from each for DNA extraction.

(UADZ 9168), the supernumerary branch is ~ 29 mm in length; however, the original tail retains evidence of the initiating injury, being ~ 11 mm from bifurcation to a rigid angle indicating damaged/healed vertebrae, ~ 15 mm to a semi-rigid angle, and ~ 6 mm to the tip. The second year juvenile lizard (UADZ 9176) presents an amazing example of “twin” tails (Fig. 1). The original tail, as indicated by position and scalation, is 63 mm in length from the bifurcation; the supernumerary branch is 57 mm in length. We surmise that the bifid tail in the adult would have been inconsequential to its biology, whereas the amount of energy diverted into the growth and maintenance of the structure in the juvenile could have affected its reproductive potential. These are the only specimens of *A. velox* with bifid tails among >200 specimens of the species that we have examined from Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah.

We are grateful to the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources for issuing a license to JEC for collection of *A. velox* in Kane Co., Utah. The 2012 expedition to Utah and New Mexico was partially funded by an Endowed Professorship awarded to JEC by Louisiana State University Eunice and Opelousas General Hospital.

JAMES E. CORDES, Division of Sciences and Mathematics, Louisiana State University Eunice, Eunice, Louisiana 70535, USA (e-mail: jcordes@lsue.edu); **JAMES M. WALKER**, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701, USA (e-mail: jmwalker@uark.edu).

BRONCHOCELA CRISTATELLA (Crested Green Lizard). ATTEMPTED PREY. *Bronchocelea cristatella* is a familiar agamid lizard in Southeast Asia, frequenting a variety of disturbed and pristine habitats, and especially common in open areas, such as parks and gardens, its diet is reported to be comprised mayflies, beetles, flies, and ants, in addition to skinks (Das 2010. *A Field Guide to the Reptiles of South-east Asia*. New Holland Publishers [UK], Ltd., London. 376 pp.; Diong and Lim 1998. *Raffles Bull. Zool.* 46:345–359).

On 21 October 2012, at 1128 h, an adult (ca. 110 mm SVL) male *Bronchocelea cristatella* was observed at a patch of beach forest, adjacent to a mangrove creek at Teluk Penyuk (1.755833°N, 110.320278°E, ca. 56 m elev.), at the foothills of Gunung Santubong, Sarawak, East Malaysia (Borneo). It had gripped the



FIG. 1. *Bronchocela cristatella* with the posterior end of a *Lonchodes jejunus* (Phasmatida, Heteronemiidae, Lonchodinae).

posterior 5 mm of the abdomen of a ca. 130 mm long phasmid (or stick insect), *Lonchodes jejunus* (Phasmatida, Heteronemiidae, Lonchodinae) in its mouth (Fig. 1). For ca. eight minutes, the lizard struggled to subdue the stick insect, and finally released its hold, and moved back to the shrub vegetation at the edge of the beach, leaving the now nearly immobile insect. Still and video images were taken with a Sony HDR-XR 350E camera; these and additional still and video images have been registered with the Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, National University of Singapore (ZRC [IMG] 2.176a–c).

The phasmid genus *Lonchodes* includes long-bodied and slender species of uniform thickness; females may have anteriorly swollen mesonotum. Bragg (2001. Phasmids of Borneo. Natural History Publications [Borneo] Sdn Bhd., Kota Kinabalu. xi + 772 pp.) listed at least five species within the genus from Santubong and adjacent regions of western Sarawak, of the 19 species known from Borneo (excluding two additional species erroneously recorded from the island). Phasmids have earlier been reported in saurian diets, although chiefly of the much larger varanids (e.g., Pianka 1970. West. Aust. Natural. 11:141–144; Greene 1986. Fieldiana Zool., n.s. [31]:i–iii; 1–12), and no Asian agamid has been reported to consume or attempt to predate on these large-growing insects.

I thank Francis Seow-Choen and Chan Chew Lun for identification of the phasmid, and Kelvin K. P. Lim for the ZRC voucher numbers. The Sarawak Forest Department issued a research permit (No. NCCD.907.4.4 Jld.7–39) and the Fundamental Research Grant, number FRGS/07(04)787/2010(68), Ministry of Higher Education supported research on the herpetofauna of Sarawak.

INDRANEIL DAS, Institute of Biodiversity and Environmental Conservation, Universiti Malaysia, 94300 Kota Samarahan, Sarawak, Malaysia; e-mail: idas@ibec.unimas.my.

CERCOSAURA SCHREIBERSII (Long-tailed Little Lizard). DEFENSIVE BEHAVIOR. Little is known about the natural history of *Cercosaura schreibersii*, a small gymnophthalmid lizard (Tedesco and Céspedes 2005. Bol. Asoc. Esp. Herpetol. 16:30–32). The few available data are related to taxonomic features (Ceï 1993. Mus. Reg. Sci. Nat., Torino, Monogr. 14, 949 pp.; Doan 2003. Zool. J. Linn. Soc. 137:101–115; Tedesco and Ceï 1999. Boll. Mus. Reg. Sci. Nat. 16:309–320) or reproductive mechanisms (Balestrini et al. 2010. Biota Neotrop. 10:131–139). Here we provide the first

report on death-feigning behavior combined with caudal autotomy in this species.

On 15 July 2012 we collected two *Cercosaura schreibersii* specimens, an adult and a juvenile, under a log in putrefaction in a xeric grassland at the Paraje Zapallo (27.845028°S, 57.866842°W), San Luis del Palmar Department, Corrientes province, Argentina. The adult specimen (total length = 80.58 mm) responded aggressively by biting the collectors' fingers upon initial attempt to lift it for examination. The lizard was put down and at which time it leaned backwards and began to rotate in a circular motion over its own body, causing autotomy of its tail. After this it placed its forelimbs stretched over the abdomen and arched its body and head back. It remained motionless for a couple of minutes, feigning death.

Caudal autotomy is a common method of antipredatory behavior, reported in squamates, salamanders, and rodents (Arnold 1988. In Gans and Huey [eds.], Biology of the Reptilia Vol. 16. Defense and Life History, pp. 235–273. Alan R. Liss, New York; Brito et al. 2001. Herpetol. Rev. 32:43–44). But reports on caudal autotomy in conjunction with death feigning are scarce (Torres-Cervantes et al. 2004. Herpetol. Rev. 35:384). In this case, the animal did not lose its tail via traditional autotomy, rather it twisted its own body in order to detach it.

MARIA ESTHER TEDESCO (e-mail: tikytedesco@yahoo.com.ar), **JUAN MANUEL CÉSPEDez, JORGE A. CÉSPEDez** (e-mail: cespedez@hotmail.com), and **MAXI ROMERO**, Laboratorio de Herpetología, Facultad de Ciencias Exactas y Naturales y Agrimensura, Universidad Nacional del Nordeste, Campus Universitario Corrientes, Avenida Libertad 5470, CP. 3440, Corrientes, Argentina.

CHALCIDES OCELLATUS (Ocellated Skink). SPIDER PREDATION. The spider genus *Latrodectus* has a worldwide distribution, with many species recorded as having a broad diet and as being occasional predators of lizards and mice (Garb et al. 2004. Mol. Phylog. Evol. 31:1127–1142; e.g., *Latrodectus hasselti* in Knoflach and Van Harten 2001. Fauna of Arabia 19:321–361; *L. pallidus* and *L. revivensis* in Blondheim and Werner 1989. Brit. Herpetol. Soc. Bull. 30:26–27); this is likely the reason for the presence of a vertebrate-specific toxin (-latrotoxin) found in their venom (Garb et al., *op. cit.*). In Europe, the diet of *Latrodectus lilianae* has been found to include the lizards: *Acanthodactylus erythrurus*, *Psammomromus algirus*, *Psammomromus*



FIG. 1. Female *Latrodectus tredecimguttatus* spider with a dead juvenile *Chalcides ocellatus* in its web; the spider's egg sacs visible in upper left corner.

PHOTO BY M. COLOMBO