Herpetological Review

Volume 52, Number 1 – March 2021

embryo removed completely removed from the eggshell, but still encased within the yolk sac (Fig. 1C). In this case, *N. americana* larvae were observed on adjacent eggshells from which the yolk and embryos had been consumed. On 24 July 2020, 16 of 18 *O. vernalis* eggs in a 21-day old communal nest, were preyed upon by *N. americana* larvae (Fig. 1D). We observed *N. americana* larvae removing the developing embryos from the eggshells (Fig. 1R), and the larvae were actively feeding on the yolk and embryos (Fig. 1F). In this situation, many of the yolk sacs were ruptured and the embryos were pulled from the eggshell and yolk sacs.

Previous studies have reported parasitism of *Pantherophis spiloides* (Gray Ratsnake) eggs by *Nicrophorus pustulatus* (Blouin-Demers and Weatherhead 2000. Ecoscience 7:395–397; Keller and Heske 2001. Trans. Illinois Acad. Sci. 94:167–169) and host-shift from carrion to *Boaedon fuliginosus* (African Housesnake) eggs (Smith et. al 2007. J. Evol. Biol. 20:2389–2399). These observations document use of snake eggs as breeding sites by *N. pustulatus*, such that the eggs and larvae of the beetles develop inside the snake eggs rather than in carrion. In these accounts, the adult *N. pustulatus* makes a hole in the snake egg to oviposit the brood. Larvae subsequently emerge from the snake eggs. The previous accounts suggest that parasitism by Silphidae may be a seldom documented, but potentially significant, source of egg mortality for oviparous snakes.

In our study, we have not observed silphid oviposition holes in *O. vernalis* eggs, so we do not consider this an example of parasitism, but rather egg predation by multiple life stages of *Necrophila americana*. It is possible that other members of the Silphidae, also prey upon or parasitize eggs of oviparous snakes. However, Smith et al. (2007, *op. cit.*) found that two additional species, *Nicrophorus orbicollis* and *Nicrophorus defodiens* did not use snake eggs for breeding. An interesting aspect of *N. americana* predation of *O. vernalis* eggs relates to the variation in incubation length of this snake. Our observations demonstrate that eggs deposited either early or late in the nesting season are vulnerable to *N. americana* predation. Thus, nests with long or short incubation windows may similarly succumb to this source of mortality.

ALLISON B. SACERDOTE-VELAT (e-mail: asacerdote-velat@nature-museum.org), **MICHELLE ROY**, **RACHEL RICCIO**, and **DYLAN PROJANSKY**, Biology Department, Chicago Academy of Sciences, 2430 N Cannon Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60614, USA.

***OLIGODON OCTOLINEATUS* (Eight-lined Kukri Snake). ABOREALITY.** Members of the genus *Oligodon* (kukri snakes) are typically terrestrial specialists of squamate eggs as well as small vertebrates (de Queiroz and Rodríguez-Robles 2006. Am. Nat. 167:684–694), with the exception of *O. annulifer* which is often arboreal (Harrington et al. 2018. Biol. J. Linn. Soc. 125:61–71). *Oligodon octolineatus* is a widespread lowland species, known from Sundaland, including the Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, Borneo, Java, the Sulu Archipelago, and Sulawesi (Das 2010. A Field Guide to the Reptiles of South-east Asia. New Holland Publishers [UK] Ltd., London. 376 pp.). Limited information on the ecology of *O. octolineatus* has been documented, although it has been observed climbing palm fronds ca. 1 m from ground (Will 2018. Singapore Biodiv. Rec. 2018:32).

On 16 May 2015, an adult *O. octolineatus* was observed at ca. 2030 h within lowland forest on the trunk of a tree ca. 3.5 m above ground, under the tree canopy. The locality was within a community forest at Upper Baleh (03.345183°N; 115.3088°E, WGS 84), Kapit Division, central Sarawak, East Malaysia. On 24 August 2018, a second specimen (ZRC 2.549) was encountered in lowland forest adjacent to the Matang Wildlife Centre (1.5500°N; 110.4167°E, WGS 84), Kuching Division, western Sarawak, East Malaysia, ca. 2.2 m up on a tree at 1915 h. It was an adult (total length ca. 45 cm), observed motionless in a head-down position, the body supported by the peeling bark of the tree (Fig. 1). These records from Borneo constitute the first records of arboreality in *O. octolineatus* and are suggestive of natural activities such as foraging and resting in such habitats.

FIG. 1. *Oligodon octolineatus* on a tree trunk in the vicinity of the Matang Wildlife Centre, Sarawak, East Malaysia.

I thank Kelvin K. P. Lim for verifying the identity of the species and for the digital voucher number, the Institute of Biodiversity and Environmental Conservation, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak for support; and the Sarawak Forest Department for research permit (NCCD.907.4.4.[Jld.7]–38).

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

***OXYRHOPUS TRIGEMINUS* (False Coral). CHROMATIC ANOMALY.** Heterochromia is a disorder that affects iris pigmentation, defined by the abnormal distribution of melanin, usually due to chromosomal homogeneity, whether pathological or not (Manrique-Gonzales 2019. Revista del Cuerpo Médico