



FIG. 1. *Oxybelis fulgidus* from Centro de Manejo Florestal Roberto Bauch (IFT), Paragominas, Pará, Brazil ingesting a *Rhamphocelus carbo*.

a través del Manejo Forestal Ecológicamente Responsable en Bosques Productivos de la Amazonia. John D. Willson and Andrew M. Durso provided valuable suggestions on the manuscript.

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SPILOTES SULPHUREUS (Amazon Puffing Snake). DIET. Snakes in the genus *Spilotes* (Colubridae) occur in disturbed rural areas, secondary and primary forests (Cunha and Nascimento 1993. Bull. Mus. Para. Emilio Goeldi 9:1–191; Martins and Oliveira 1998. Herpetol. Nat. Hist. 6:78–150) in the Amazon Rainforest, Atlantic Forest, and Caatinga biomes. Studies of the feeding habits of these species have revealed the consumption of birds (eggs, nestlings, domestic and native birds) (Beebe 1946. Zoologica 31:39–42; Rivas and Kane 2003. Herpetol. Rev. 34:72; Alves et al. 2005. Herpetol. Rev. 36:459; Bernarde and Abe 2010. Biota Neotrop. 10:167–173; Zuluaga-Isaza et al. 2015. Herpetol. Rev. 46:649), bats (Rufino and Bernardi 1999. Herpetol. Rev. 30:103–104), insects and fruits (Cisneros-Heredia 2005. Herpetol. Rev. 36:326–327), and rodents (Cunha and Nascimento 1993, *op. cit.*). *Spilotes sulphureus* is an arboreal snake that is widely distributed in Brazil, Ecuador, Peru, the Guianas, and Trinidad (Andrade et al. 2017. Check List 13:1–3).

In the present note, we report a new prey item for *S. sulphureus* based on opportunistic observation in nature of an adult specimen from the U.C. Wildlife Refuge Mata do Junco (10.32°S, 37.03°W; WGS 84), a fragment of Atlantic Forest in Capela municipality, state of Sergipe, Brazil. The snake (SVL = 2200 mm; tail length = 540 mm) was observed capturing an adult male rodent, *Phyllomys pattoni* (Echimyidae, head–body length = 151 mm; tail length = 148 mm) in a tree, ca. 3 m above ground on 9 August 2013. During predation, the snake fell from the tree and finished ingesting the rodent. The snake was then captured and deposited, along with its prey, at the Herpetological and Mammals Collection of the Federal University of Sergipe (CHUFS 4449 and CMUFS 0034).

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VIPERA BERUS (European Adder). COMMUNAL SHELTER. Snakes are generally considered to be solitary (Aubret and Shine 2009. Aust. Ecol. 34:210–217), although many studies provide evidence for social interactions (Burghardt 1983. Z. Tierpsychol. 61:89–101; Gregory 2004. Herpetologica 60:178–186; Clark 2007. Behav. Ecol. 18:487–490; Clark et al. 2012. Biol. Lett.

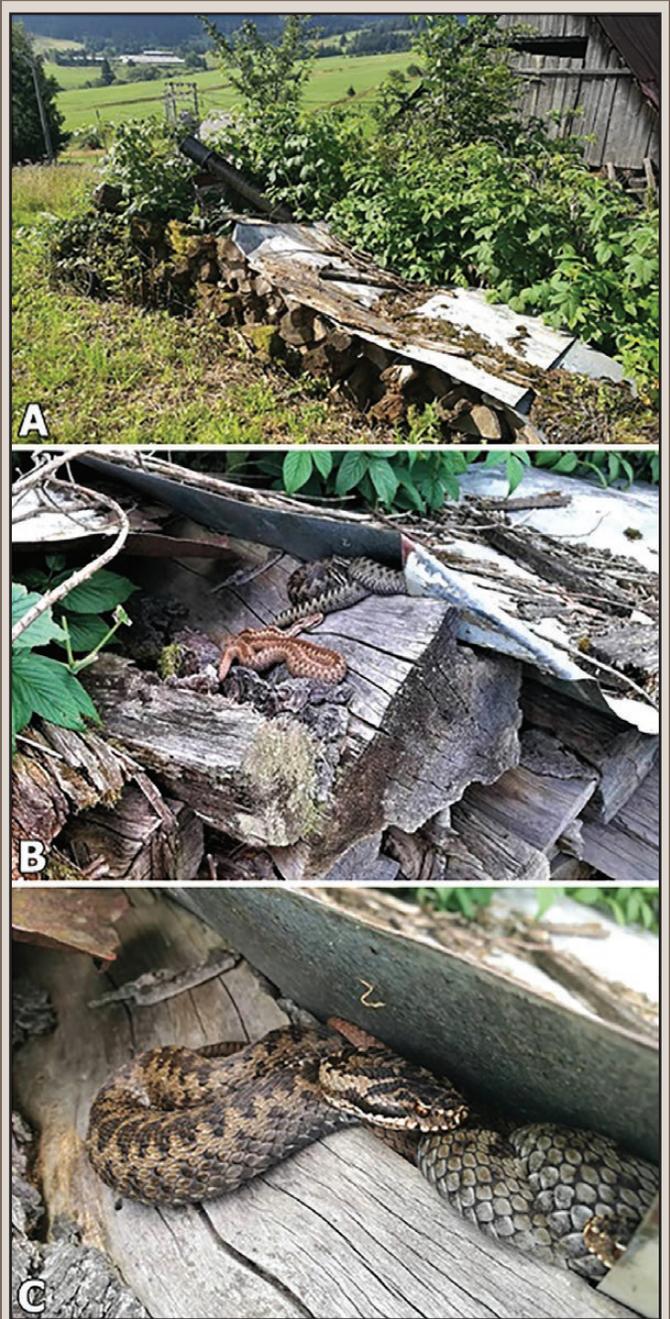


FIG. 1. A) Pile of wood covered with metal as a shelter of *Vipera berus* in Veké Borové, Slovakia. B–C) Several individuals observed sharing one shelter.

8:523–525). Conspecifics sharing shelter during the active season is infrequently documented (Blais and Lashway 2018. *Herpetol. Rev.* 49:357–358). Such aggregations are not common in *Vipera berus* (Prestit 1971. *J. Zool.* 164:373–418; Herczeg et al. 2007. *Herpetol. J.* 17:58–61) with the exception of particular periods of life, such as hibernation, basking after hibernation, shedding, and mating (Prestit 1971, *op. cit.*; Andrén 1985. *Amphibia-Reptilia* 6:203–206; Schiemenz 1987. *Die Kreuzotter Vipera berus*. A. Ziemsen Verlag, Wittenberg Lutherstadt. 108 pp.; Völkl and Biella 1988. *Zool. Abh. Staatl. Museum Tierkde. Dresden* 44:19–23). Herein, we report a case of shelter sharing *V. berus* during active season.

Our observation comes from the village of Veľké Borové (49.2011°N, 19.5123°E, WGS 84; 859 m elev.) in northern Slovakia. Typical habitat here is submontane meadows with scattered trees and a man-made shelter consisting of piles of wood covered by metal (Fig. 1A). The shelter was visited six times between 23 July and 2 August 2018, during both morning and afternoon hours. During each visit, one to four individuals of *V. berus* were observed. Exact dates and time of observation are on 23 July at 1519 h with four individuals present, on 27 July at 0922 h and 1519 h, two and three individuals, on 29 July at 1011 h and 1718 h, two individuals in both observations and on 2 August at 1720 h, a single individual. Both adult males and females were present. One melanistic individual was observed. Most individuals were found on the top of the wood, under the metal (Fig. 1B).

A lack of appropriate natural shelters and suitable conditions for thermoregulation are possible explanations for the observed behavior. The structure of artificial shelter also enables snakes to immediately take refuge in the wood piles (Fig. 1C) or bask with only some bodyparts exposed to the sun. Basking close to shelter is a known anti-predator strategy in *V. berus* (Palmer 2011. *Herpetol. Bull.* 117:25–27; Hodges and Seabrook 2016. *Herpetol. Bull.* 137:13–18). Active season aggregations of 2–6 (max. 13) gravid females are known from Saxony, Germany (Schiemenz et al. 1996. *In* Günther [ed.], *Die Amphibien und Reptilien Deutschlands*, pp. 710–728. Gustav Fischer Verlag, Jena; Völkl and Thiesmeier 2002. *Beiheft der Zeitschrift für Feldherpetologie* 5:44) and up to 800 individuals have been found hibernating together (Nilson et al. 2005. *In* Joger and Stümpel [eds.], *Handbuch der Reptilien und Amphibien Europas*. Volume 3/IIB: Schlangen [Serpentes] III, pp. 213–292. AULA-Verlag, Wiesbaden).

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XENOCHROPHIS CERASOGASTER (Painted Keelback). DIET. *Xenochrophis cerasogaster* is an aquatic snake with a patchy distribution in Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bangladesh, and possibly Bhutan (Purkayastha et al. 2013. *Hamadryad* 36:149–156; Uetz et al. 2018. www.reptile-database.org; accessed 6 July 2018). Little information is available on the feeding habits and diet of *X. cerasogaster*. Reports include shrimps and fish in its diet, while captive snakes were reported to feed on small fishes, tadpoles, and frogs (Wall 1907. *J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc.* 18:101–129; Minton 1966. *Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.* 134:27–184). In these reports, no specific identities of the prey items were mentioned. Here I report three records including four individuals of *X. cerasogaster*



FIG. 1. *Xenochrophis cerasogaster* feeding on a *Trichogaster lalius*.

hunting and feeding on the freshwater fish *Trichogaster lalius* (family Osphronemidae) and a *Channa* sp. (family Channidae) being regurgitated by another individual of *X. cerasogaster*.

All observations were made in Newtown, North 24 parganas (22.60360°N, 88.47709°E; WGS 84), West Bengal, India. On 6 August 2015 at 0800 h, two adult *X. cerasogaster* were found ca. 2 m apart actively hunting in a densely vegetated narrow water canal. One individual was observed feeding consecutively on four individuals of *T. lalius* and another one captured a *T. lalius* during my 60-min observation (Fig. 1). On 8 August 2015 at 0730 h, four individuals of *X. cerasogaster* were observed in the same canal but only one was observed hunting, again for *T. lalius*. The third incident was recorded on 29 October 2015 at 1620 h, when an adult *X. cerasogaster* was found biting a *T. lalius* trapped in a fishing net and subsequently feeding on it. In all the above-mentioned observations, the larger fishes took ca. 5–7 mins for the snakes to completely swallow while the smaller fishes took ca. 1–2 mins. The fish *T. lalius* is distributed across northern India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh (Menon 1999. *Check List: Fresh Water Fishes of India. Rec. Zool. Surv. India, Misc. Publ., Occas. Pap.* 175, 366 pp.) and grows to a maximum length of 88 mm (Rahman 1989. *Freshwater Fishes of Bangladesh. Zoological Society of Bangladesh, Department of Zoology, University of Dhaka.* 364 pp.).

On 17 November 2014 at ca. 0900 h, an adult female *X. cerasogaster* was found with a mouth injury in a dry water body. It later regurgitated a *Channa* sp. measuring 125 mm in length. The exact identity of the fish could not be determined as it was in a partially digested state but an informal survey of the local fish fauna revealed the presence of *Channa punctata*, *C. gachua*, and *C. striata* from the area. Although *X. cerasogaster* had been known to feed on fishes, this note documents the identity of fish species being consumed by this snake in the wild.

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