



**Figure 2.** Common lizard showing right foreleg damage.



**Figure 3.** Common lizard showing damage to nasal area.

reptiles (viviparous lizards and slow-worms *Anguis fragilis*). Between 20 May 2008 and 18 July 2008, 18 common lizards and 47 slow-worms were captured (during 38 site visits), from an area that would become the quarry ‘plant area’.

The ‘injured’ common lizard was captured under a felt refuge on 1 July 2008, exhibiting normal thermoregulatory behaviour, and showing no obvious signs of suffering. It was released at a receptor area soon afterwards. Figures 1-3 show its injuries. Ongoing monitoring each year since then has not rediscovered the same lizard.

Consideration of these ‘injuries’ throws up several possible explanations. Pathology is one possibility; perhaps an infection that causes necrosis of the extremities, or a parasitic organism. The nasal damage was superficially reminiscent of the effects of toadfly *Lucilia bufonivora* on common toads *Bufo bufo*, but the lesions seemed to be healed. Frost damage is another possibility. The restriction of necrosis to the anterior extremities, with none evident elsewhere on the body, suggests only partial exposure to frost, however. Another explanation may be partial predation by small rodents, or invertebrates such as ants, consuming parts of the lizard while it hibernated. Alternatively, forestry operations could have caused injuries, which the lizard survived but then became infected or necrotic. Traumatic injury such as this would have probably resulted in less subtle injuries though, and outright death.

Healed head lesions covered with black skin were recently reported from male sand lizards *Lacerta agilis* from Wareham, by Sainsbury *et al.* (2011), but the authors attributed them to male-male combat.

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**DRYMOLUBER DICHROUS** (northern woodland racer) and **ANOLIS FUSCOAURATUS** (slender anole): PREDATION.

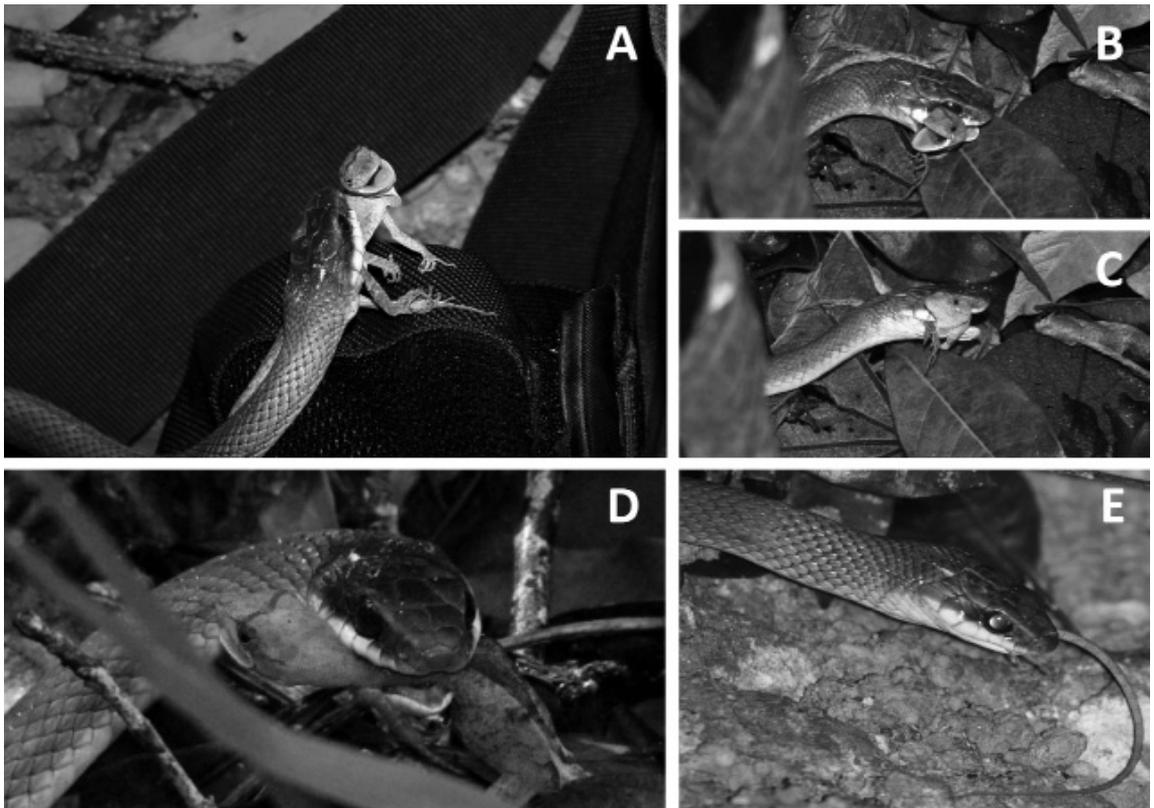
*Drymoluber dichrous* (Peters, 1863) is a ground-dwelling colubrid from northern South America found in both primary and secondary forest (Borges-Nojosa & Lima, 2001). It is active during the day, sleeping in low vegetation at night (Duellman, 1978; Martins & Oliveira, 1998). Stomach contents indicate that the diet of *D. dichrous* is mainly composed of Leptodactylid frogs and lizards of both Sphaerodactylidae and Gymnophthalmidae families (Martins & Oliveira, 1998; Borges-Nojosa & Lima, 2001). It also preys on teiid lizards (e.g. *Ameiva ameiva* and *Kentropyx calcarata*), other snakes and reptile eggs (Martins & Oliveira, 1998; Pinto, 2006). Thus, these studies indicate that *D. dichrous* preys predominantly upon ground dwelling species (but see Duellman [1978]).

The slender anole *Anolis fuscoauratus* has a

wide geographic distribution in the Amazon and Atlantic Forest biomes, within which it is the most common anole (Vitt et al., 2003). This diurnal, lizard inhabits primary and secondary forests but can also be found in forested patches of urban areas, where it is often seen on low vegetation, or occasionally climbing tree trunks into the canopy (Duellman, 1978; Vitt et al., 2003). Records of predators of this species are relatively scarce and no detailed descriptions of predatory episodes have been documented.

On the 27 October 2010 an individual of *D. dichrous* was sighted at approximately 1140 hours in the proximity of the Santo Antônio water spring (07°24'49"S, 39°12'46"W, 807 m a.s.l.) located in the central slopes of the Chapada do Araripe, Municipality of Missão Velha. The snake (TL approximately 110 cm) was seen and photographed moving amongst the leaf litter at the edge of the

southern bank of the canal, about 20 m downstream from the spring. After some minutes of observation during which time the snake moved slowly through the vegetation, in a burst of speed it took to chasing an individual of *A. fuscoauratus* (SVL approximately 5 cm), until then unnoticed by the team. The chase occurred over a distance of approximately six metres, towards the centre of the canal, with both the snake and lizard having passed between the feet one of the observers (D. Veríssimo) and finally finishing on top of the backpacks used by the field team. The *D. dichrous* seized the lizard by its upper body (Fig. 1A) and started slowly, whilst making repeated chewing motions, moving back into vegetation. The anole gaped and presented signs of respiratory distress (Fig. 1B), stopping all movement after a few seconds (Fig. 1C). While firmly held, the lizard did not show any sign of movement or struggle, and the snake did



**Figure 1.** *Drymoluber dichrous* predation of *Anolis fuscoauratus*: A. snake seizing the lizard, B. lizard gaping, C. lizard immobilized, D. snake preparing to swallow lizard, E. tip of lizard's tail hanging from the snake's mouth. Photographs by A. Campos, except D by D. Veríssimo.

not constrict or use its body to restrain its prey (Fig. 1D). The prey was then handled and adjusted to be ingested from the head and swallowing ensued quickly. After three minutes, only the tip of the tail of the anole was visible, hanging from the snake's mouth (Fig. 1E).

Our observation confirms the suspicion by Martins (1994) that active search for prey is a strategy employed by this species. On the other hand, despite *A. fuscoauratus* being an abundant species (Borges-Nojosa & Lima, 2001), its predominantly arboreal habits appear to make it unlikely prey for this snake. This might explain why episodes involving both species have not been documented in the wild.

The lack of struggle by the lizard may have been death feigning, which has been documented in other neotropical lizards (Gomes et al., 2004), or the result of envenomation. We suggest the latter given that, although the presence of Duvernoy's glands has not yet been documented for the genus *Drymoluber*, it has been described for its closest relative, the genus *Mastigodryas*, (Serapicos & Merusse 2006; Pyron et al., 2011).

This report represents a new prey species for *D. dichrous* and a newly confirmed predator of *A. fuscoauratus*.

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