

ant colony. It has been hypothesized that juveniles may not hibernate or that they hibernate for only a short time because they can reach reproductive size the following summer (Young and Young, *op. cit.*; Muth and Fisher 1992. Development of baseline data and procedures for monitoring populations of the flat-tailed horned lizard, *Phrynosoma mcallii*. Contract Report FG9268 to the Calif. Dept. Fish and Game, Sacramento, California.). Our observations suggest that juveniles can also be flexible in their hibernation habits.

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PHRYNOSOMA TAURUS (Mexican Horned Lizard). **DEFENSIVE BEHAVIOR.** As horned lizards (genus *Phrynosoma*) are potential prey for many animals, they need effective defenses. Recently, field encounters between humans and each of several species of *Phrynosoma* were combined with controlled encounters with predators and literature records to determine which of the 13 currently recognized *Phrynosoma* species (including *P. taurus*) exhibit the anti-predator blood-squirting behavior (Sherbrooke and Middendorf 2001. *Copeia* 2001:519–527). Sherbrooke and colleagues (2004. *Herpetol. Rev.* 35:345–347) indicated that the only literature report of blood squirting in *P. taurus* was based on a misidentification of the species not based on personal observation (see Ruthling 1919. *Copeia* [72]:67–68). Thus, they concluded that the report of blood squirting by *P. taurus* was erroneous. We provide an observation of blood-squirting behavior in *P. taurus* that may require reconsideration of their conclusion.

In May 2005, while walking on a trail toward Sierra de Monteflor in Zoquiapan Boca de Los Ríos within the Biosphere Reserve of Tehuacan-Cuicatlan, Oaxaca, México, UOGV collected a male *Phrynosoma taurus* (80 mm SVL) at (17°36'38.3"N, 96°49'23.5"W, datum: WGS84; elev. 1374 m). The lizard was found while walking on a trail in an oak forest. When captured, the animal displayed the blood-squirting defensive behavior by ejecting blood from the sinus of the left eye. Execution of the behavior was rapid and occurred within 7 sec of handling. This record confirms the presence of blood-squirting behavior in *P. taurus*, and represents the first record of this behavior in response to a field encounter with humans.

Because the *P. taurus* occurred in a Biosphere Reserve, we photographed the animal for a voucher and then released it. The color slide voucher (MZFC 1598) was deposited in the herpetological collection of Museo de Zoología, Facultad de Ciencias, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, México.

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TUPINAMBIS MERIANAE (Tegu). **DIET.** The seven recognized species of tegu (genus *Tupinambis*) occur over a broad range habitats from forest to grassland. As adults, tegus are usually assumed to prey largely on small vertebrates and invertebrates (Zug et al. 2001. *Herpetology: An Introductory Biology of Amphibians and Reptiles*, 2nd edition. Academic Press, London. 630 pp.). However, dietary studies indicate that they are opportunistic omnivores that scavenge and include vegetable matter in their diets (Sazima and Haddad 1992. *In* Morellato [ed.], *Historia Natural da Serra do Japi*, pp. 212–235. Unicamp Press, Brazil). Here, we describe an unusual attempted predation event by *T. merianae* from southeastern Brazil.

At 1130 h on 30 December 2005, we observed an adult (ca. 50.0 cm SVL) *Tupinambis merianae* biting a juvenile (30.0 cm total length) armadillo (*Dasypus novemcinctus*) on Anchieta Island in the southeastern coast of Brazil (23°32'27.2"S, 45°03'57.1"W, datum: WGS84; elev. 6 m). The armadillo had a bruise on his dorsum (Fig. 1) that had an offal-like smell.

The predation attempt likely failed because the thickest part of the armadillo appeared to be too large to be swallowed. The offal-like smell from the armadillo's bruise may have triggered the predatory attempt, as scavenging on dead animals has been reported for *T. merianae* (Haddad and Sazima, *loc. cit.*).

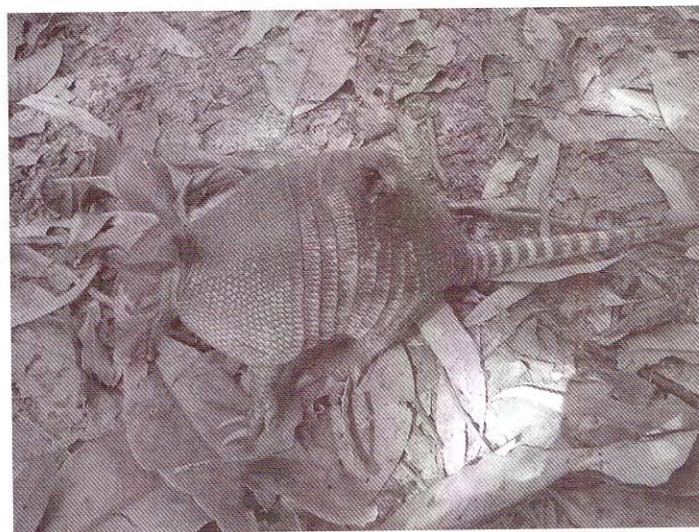


FIG. 1. *Dasypus novemcinctus* with a bruise on the dorsum prior to its sustaining a predation attempt by *Tupinambis merianae*.

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