

were collected during the day and night at Cap Blanc on 14 May 1995 (21°07'97/100N, 16°57'45/100W) and deposited at the Paris Natural History Museum (MNHN 1996.6267–6271, 1996.6385; 3 males and 3 females).

One female (MNHN 1996.6270) was remarkable by its snout-vent length of 74 mm, exceeding by 10 mm the maximum known (Schleich et al. 1996, *Amphibians and Reptiles of North Africa*, Koeltz Scientific Publ., 630 pp.). The maximum width of its body was 27 mm. It was collected around 1500 h under a stone. It was kept in captivity for several months by one of us (FG), and laid eggs four times (2 eggs, 1 egg, 2 eggs, and 1 egg) from June 1995 to January 1996. Egg size varied from 7–12 x 12–15 mm.

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**HEMIDACTYLUS TURCICUS** (Mediterranean Gecko). **INTRASPECIFIC INTERACTIONS.** The edificarian *Hemidactylus turcicus* has been established in south Texas, USA, for at least 45 years (Conant 1955, *Amer. Mus. Novit.* 1726:1–6) and has since spread north and west throughout the state. We report on a population of *H. turcicus* from the Rio Grande Valley, located on a house and in an RV park 3.2 km E Edinburg, Hidalgo Co., Texas. Data are presented on tail-break frequencies, sex ratio, and certain behaviors. Specimens were externally sexed by the presence of pre-anal pores on males (Selcer 1986, *Copeia* 1986:956–962), preserved in 10% formalin, and will eventually be deposited in the TCWC.

Selcer (1987, *J. Herpetol.* 21:74–78) reported males fighting over insects with resultant body scars and missing tails and toes, but did not record tail-break rates of either sex. To the best of our knowledge, tail-break frequencies have not been published for any population of *H. turcicus*. During a study to determine recolonization rates, we hand collected 53 geckos (2200–2400 h) on 25 June 1994 from the study site. Care was taken not to damage geckos during collection and natural tail-break frequencies were accurately recorded. Males (N = 17) had a 41.2% tail-break frequency and females (N = 34) a 35.3% frequency. Tail-break frequencies between sexes were compared using a  $\chi^2$  test and were not statistically different ( $0.9 < p < 0.5$ ). Pooled tail-break frequency was 35.8%. During confinement, prior to preservation, it was noted that many geckos would spontaneously autotomize tails, suggesting that examination of museum specimens may lead to inflated estimates of tail-break rates.

Between April 1992 and December 1992, we frequently observed, from a distance  $\leq 1$  m, *H. turcicus* forage on windows and screens at the south Texas study site. Geckos (N = 2–5) on any given window were usually of both sexes and approaches between individuals during feeding were routinely as close as 1 cm. At no time were any agonistic encounters observed or any vocalizations heard. In a recent study (Vaughan et al. 1996, *J. Herpetol.* 30:46–51) involving competition for perch sites between *H. turcicus* and *Cryptopodion scabrum*, no vocalizations, either in mixed species or single species enclosures, were heard or aggressive interactions observed (R. Vaughan, pers. comm.). Marcellini (1977, *Amer.*

*Zool.* 17:251–260) and Frankenberg and Marcellini (1990, *Isr. J. Zool.* 37:107–118) described agonistic displays and vocalizations of *H. turcicus* during intraspecific encounters. If vocalizations, as suggested by Marcellini (1977, *op. cit.*), are normally associated with intraspecific interactions and territoriality, then levels of intraspecific aggression may be low in some Texas populations. Additional observations support this conclusion. Geckos normally foraged beneath lights at the study site. At three specific collecting points (Base plates I–III) in the trailer park, 5–8 adult geckos of both sexes were clustered around lights attached to a 155 cm<sup>2</sup> metal base plate mounted to the wall. During the day, space beneath these base plates served as diurnal refugia for those geckos that foraged around the light at night. At these sites and other known diurnal refugia, geckos were observed diurnally in quiescent contact in these communal situations. Other species of arboreal geckos with which we are familiar (*H. frenatus*, *Lepidodactylus lugubris*, *Gehyra mutilata*, *G. oceanica*, and *Perochirus ateles*) are solitary in diurnal refugia. These observations suggest that, comparatively, *H. turcicus* is relatively gregarious and may display low levels of intraspecific aggression.

Sex ratio in our sample was biased in favor of females (1:2). Selcer (1986, *op. cit.*) reported a balanced (1:1) sex ratio, but his sample size was considerably larger. Of our 53 specimens (mean snout-vent length (SVL) = 49.8 mm, SD = 7.4), we scored only the two smallest (23.4 and 25.2 mm SVL) as juveniles. Only juveniles were collected on the ground while all others were collected generally under lights from sides of buildings at heights of 0.1–3.0 m.

We thank Eric Moum and David Hensley for assistance in the field and Rosemary Hensley for logistic support at the study site. A draft of this manuscript was reviewed by James R. Dixon, Robert Powell, and Andy Holycross. We also thank Walter Meshaka, Paul Klawinski, Oscar Flores-Villela, Kathryn Vaughan, and Kyle Selcer for sharing information.

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**IGUANA IGUANA** (Green Iguana). **LONGEVITY.** There has been a tremendous increase in knowledge of care and culture of green iguanas in the past 20 years. Yet, to my knowledge, there are few (or no) longevity records for this species (Burghardt and Rand, eds., 1982, *Iguanas of the World*, Noyes Publ, Park Ridge, New Jersey, 472 pp.; Frye 1995, *Iguana iguana: Guide for Successful Captive Care*, Krieger Publ. Co. Malabar, Florida). The purpose of this note is to establish one such record. A female iguana was purchased as a hatchling from a pet shop early in 1968. She died 14 January 1996, at an age of nearly 28 yrs. At her death, her SVL was 432 mm, her head was 103 mm long, and she weighed 1792 g.

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**LACERTA AGILIS** (Sand Lizard). **DERMATOPHAGY.** *Lacerta agilis* is the most common lizard in the Czech Republic, and it inhabits a variety of habitats including manmade structures in urban environments. In 1994 a survey of the diet of *L. agilis* was conducted as part of a wider ecological study (Gvozdík 1995.

A Contribution to Ecology and Morphometry of Sand Lizard, *Lacerta agilis* Linnaeus, 1758. Unpubl. M.S. Thesis, Palacky Univ., Olomouc. [in Czech] near a river embankment in the town of Opava, Opava County, Czech Republic (49°56'N, 17°54'E, elev. 250 m). On 14 August 1994 an adult male *L. agilis* (65.5 mm SVL) was captured with a portion of its shed skin attached to the posterior part of the body. The stomach contents were obtained by stomach flushing (James 1990. Herpetol. Rev. 21:87–88) and were preserved in 10% formalin. The stomach content analysis did not reveal any invertebrate prey items, but several pieces of lizard skin were found. Because shed skin occurred on the lizard's body and in its stomach simultaneously, it is probable that the shed skin was consumed as a deliberate act, rather than being ingested during aggressive, mating, or other activities with a conspecific (Weldon et al. 1993. J. Herpetol. 27:219–228). This report is in contrast to the comprehensive study by Lukina (1976. In A. V. Jablakov, ed., Sand Lizard, pp. 179–213. Nauka, Moscow. [in Russian]), who did not record skin in the contents of 3945 stomachs of *L. agilis*.

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**SCELOPORUS JARROVII** (Yarrow's Spiny Lizard). **REPRODUCTION IN MEXICO.** Although the reproductive biology of *S. jarrovi* has been studied in the United States (Goldberg 1971. Herpetologica 27:123–131; Ballinger 1973. Ecology 54:269–283), there are, to my knowledge, no published accounts of its reproduction in Mexico. In this note I report on an examination of gonads from 19 *S. jarrovi* from Morelos, Mexico. Specimens were examined from the Texas Cooperative Wildlife Collection (TCWC): 3824–3826, 3828–3830, 3832–3838, 3841, 6873–6877. Except for TCWC 3824, which was from Lagunas de Zempoala (19°05'N, 99°19'W; ca. 3050 m elev.), 8 August 1950, all others were from 3 km W Huitzilac, (19°03'N, 99°15'W; ca. 3050 m elev.) and were collected 26–31 July 1949 (TCWC 3825–3826, 3828–3830, 3832–3833, 3834–3838, 3838, 3841) or 8 August 1950 (TCWC 6873–6875, 6877). The left gonad was removed and embedded in paraffin for histological examination. Sections of testes were cut at 5 µm and stained with hematoxylin and eosin counterstain. Gross observations were made of ovaries. The female sample (N = 4) had a mean snout–vent length (SVL) of 65.3 mm ± 3.2 SD (range = 62–68); male sample (N = 15) mean SVL = 81.6 mm ± 7.4 SD (range = 71–93). All lizards were reproductively active. Testes were undergoing spermiogenesis; lumina of seminiferous tubules were lined by sperm and several rows of metamorphosing spermatids were present. Each of the 4 females were reproductively active: TCWC 6875 contained 4 oviductal eggs; TCWC 3824 contained 5 enlarged eggs measuring 6 mm diam; TCWC 6877 contained 2 enlarged eggs measuring 4 mm diam; TCWC 3834 contained 3 enlarged eggs measuring 3 mm diam. These observations contrast with those of Goldberg (1971) who found male *S. jarrovi* from the Baboquivari (= Quinlan) Mountains (31°95'N, 111°59'W; 1920 m elev.) Pima County, Arizona, USA (ca. 1870 km N of the Morelos population) did not begin spermiogenesis until September; females did not accumulate yolk until autumn with ovulation occurring in mid-November to early December. Similarly Ballinger (*op. cit.*) found male *S. jarrovi* collected in August from the Chiricahua Mountains, Cochise County, Arizona, contained neither spermatids nor spermatozoa. Clearly, the *S. jarrovi* reproductive cycle is accelerated in Morelos when compared to that of *S. jarrovi* in southeastern

Arizona. It is conceivable that this acceleration is because of a shortened activity season resulting from a colder climate in the high elevation habitat (3050 m) of the Morelos population. In any case, my observations have indicated significant variation in timing of the reproductive cycle between populations of *S. jarrovi* in different parts of its range.

I thank James R. Dixon and Kathryn Vaughan (Texas A & M University) for permission to examine *Sceloporus jarrovi*, and Robert L. Bezy (Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County) for taxonomic verification.

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**TROPIDURUS MELANOPLEURUS** (NCN). **PARASITES.** *Tropidurus melanopleurus* is a tropidurid lizard found on the eastern slopes of the Andes from Argentina to Perú. Captures of some individuals for an ecological study of this species (see Pérez-Mellado and de la Riva 1993. Copeia 1993:969–976) led me to examine the digestive tract of 36 lizards for parasites from which three helminth species were found: *Parapharyngodon sceleratus* (Travassos, 1923) (Nematoda: Oxyuroidea: Pharyngodonidae) from the cloaca, *Strongyluris oscari* Travassos, 1923 (Nematoda: Heterakoidea: Heterakidae) from the gut, and *Physaloptera retusa* Rudolphi, 1819 (Nematoda: Physalopteroidea: Physalopteridae) from the stomach and gut.

This is the first helminthological record for *T. melanopleurus* as a host for the helminths mentioned above. Nevertheless, these nematodes are common species of the neotropical helminth fauna and have been recorded from other species of *Tropidurus* and from other reptile hosts (Barus 1973. Folia Parasitol. 20:131–139; Masi-Pallarés et al. 1973. Rev. Parag. Microb. 8:67–113; Pereira 1935. Arch. Inst. Biol. Rio de Janeiro 6:5–27; Vicente 1981. Atas Soc. Biol. Rio de Janeiro 22:7–18; Vicente and Santos 1967. Atas Soc. Biol. Rio de Janeiro 11:75–77).

Global prevalence (percentage of parasitized lizards in relation to sampled lizards) is 66.7%, similar to the near 67% of *T. torquatus* and *T. spinulosus*, (Vicente 1981. Atas. Soc. Biol. Rio de Janeiro 22:7–18). There were no differences between males and females with regard to infestation prevalence (68.8% in males; 65% in females). Among the parasite species, *P. retusa* was the most prevalent species (53% of the lizards parasitized), *P. sceleratus* 25%, and *S. oscari* 14%. The mean intensities of infestation (mean total number of specimens of each parasite species in relation with the number of hosts parasitized by that parasite) were 4.4 for *S. oscari*, 3.3 for *P. sceleratus*, and 2.4 for *P. retusa*.

I thank Valentín Pérez-Mellado and Ignacio de la Riva for permitting the helminthological analysis of the digestive tract of the lizards.

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**TUPINAMBIS MERIANAE** (Common Tegu). **PREDATION.** Verified reports of predation on *Tupinambis* species by predators other than humans are rare. Juvenile *T. teguixin* were reported in the diet of gray hawks (Haverschmidt. 1968. Birds of Surinam: I–XXIX. Edinburgh and London), and Gudynas wrote, "There are no known predators of *Tupinambis teguixin* in Uruguay except for man and his dogs." (Gudynas 1981. Bull. Chicago Her-