



FIG. 1. *Pseudechis porphyriacus* attacking a *Tropidechis carinatus* in North Queensland, Australia.

Queensland, Australia, we observed a *P. porphyriacus* (total length ca. 1.5 m) attacking and trying to depredate a *T. carinatus* (total length ca. 1 m). When we first encountered the snakes, both had the anterior halves of their bodies within a rocky den, with their tails entangled outside. Approximately one minute following the encounter, the *T. carinatus* emerged from the den with the *P. porphyriacus* gripping it strongly with its jaws on the right lateral aspect of its body, approximately 20% of its body length below the head. The *T. carinatus* tried to escape by crawling away, but the *P. porphyriacus* did not release the lock-bite for approximately 30 sec. Following this interaction, the *P. porphyriacus* may have become aware of our presence, and released the *T. carinatus*. The *T. carinatus* proceeded to move away from the area to a protected den adjacent to the point of original observation. The duration of the interaction, from the first time point when we discovered the snakes, to the escape of the *T. carinatus*, lasted 5 min. Because the *T. carinatus* sought refuge in a den, we were not able to observe whether it recovered from its bite and possible envenomation by the *P. porphyriacus*.

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TROPIDOLAEMUS SUBANNULATUS (Northern Temple Pit Viper). **MORPHOLOGY.** *Tropidolaemus subannulatus* usually have a yellow-orange to red-orange iris. On 25 August 2015, a *T. subannulatus* was found at Brgy, San Roque, Bulusan, Sorsogon, Philippines, that had a white iris (Fig. 1A). To our knowledge, the

only other record of a white iris in this species was an individual photographed in 2007 (Fig. 1B), that was supposedly from Luzon Island, Philippines (Gernot Vogel, pers. comm.). However, this individual had some black speckles on its iris. This iris coloration might represent a previously unreported form of sexual dimorphism, as the two individuals reported here were males, or just a form of mutation.

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VIPERA ASPIS HUGYI (South-Italian Asp Viper). **DIET.** An adult male *V. aspis hugyi* (SVL = 453 mm, tail length = 48 mm) was caught on 19 April 2016 at 0953 h in a garrigue (40.07032°N, 18.47199°E, WGS 84; elev. 103 m) 4 km NE of Santa Cesarea Terme, Lecce Province, southeastern Italy. When caught, the snake regurgitated a subadult *Scolopendra cingulata* (Mediterranean Banded Centipede; total length = 55 mm). The centipede was preserved in the collections of the Natural History Museum of Salento. The diet of *V. aspis hugyi* is known to include rodents, lacertids, small birds, amphibians, and insects (Rotolo 1980. Rettili di Puglia. Schena Editore, Fasano di Brindisi. 125 pp.; Basso and Calasso. 1991. I Rettili della Penisola Salentina. Edizioni del Grifo, Lecce. 63 pp.; Fattizzo 1996. Anfibi e Rettili della Penisola Salentina. Progetto Physis, Latiano. 126 pp.; Lo Valvo and Longo 2001. Anfibi e Rettili in Sicilia. WWF Sezione Sicilia, Palermo. 85 pp.; Nitti 2011. Rettili e Anfibi di Puglia. Grafiche Vito Radio Editore, Castellana Grotte. 157 pp.). Our observation represents the first record of predation on a centipede by this subspecies. We thank Antonio Durante (Calimera) for the identification of the centipede.

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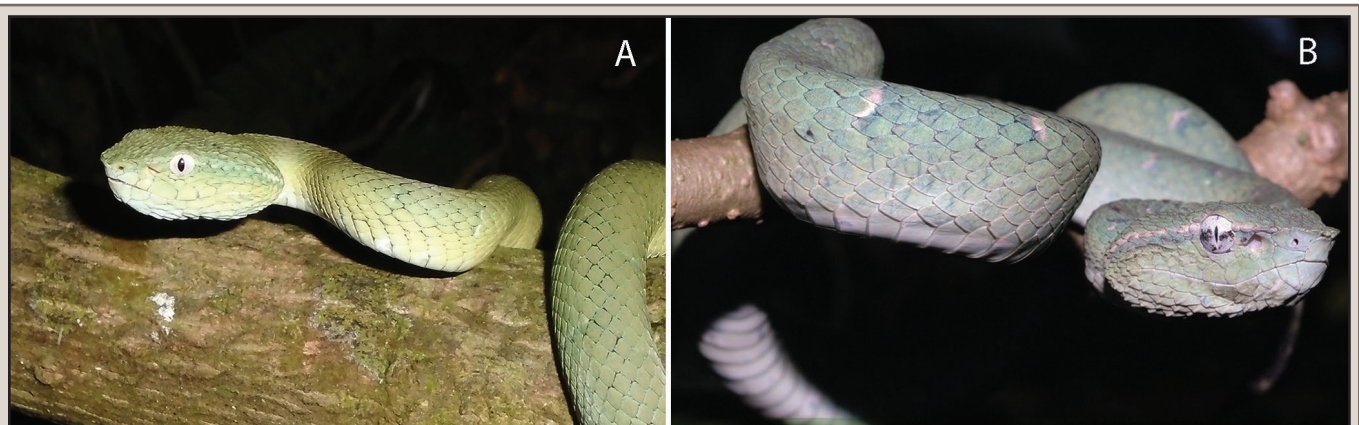


FIG. 1. A) *Tropidolaemus subannulatus* with white iris from Brgy, San Roque, Bulusan, Sorsogon, Philippines; and B) *T. subannulatus* with a speckled-white iris from Luzon Island, Philippines.

PHOTO (B) BY G. VOGEL