



FIG 1. Sub-adult *Bothrops atrox*, Pacaya Samiria National Reserve, Loreto region, northeastern Peru. A) View of ventral body length. B) Close-up on distended abdomen. C) Terrestrial spiny rat, *Proechimys* sp. (Rodentia: Echimyidae: Eumysopinae) recovered from the gut of *B. atrox*. Scale bar in cm.

abdomen was noticeably distended (Fig. 1B) and a partial necropsy revealed a terrestrial spiny rat, *Proechimys* sp. (Rodentia: Echimyidae: Eumysopinae), consumed head first and measuring ca. 90 mm from nose to base of tail (Fig. 1C). Given body size, dark overall body color, a short dark tail not exceeding body length, and local habitat type, the prey item likely represents *Proechimys* aff. *brevicauda* (Patton et al. 2000. *Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist.* 244:1–306; J. L. Patton, pers. comm. 2015); however, *Proechimys* species are extremely difficult to distinguish. Thus, generic, rather than species-level, recognition of the prey item would be most appropriate. *Proechimys* are among the most abundant members of the mammalian community in lowland Amazonian forest (Patton et al. 2000, *op. cit.*). *Bothrops atrox* and many *Proechimys* spp. are sympatric in the Amazon Basin, both species occupy similar habitat, and both may occur in high densities (Martins and Oliveira 1999, *op. cit.*; Patton et al. 2000, *op. cit.*; Campbell and Lamar 2004, *op. cit.*). Thus, it is likely that the two species interact regularly and that *Proechimys* spp. form an important, yet under-reported, dietary component of *B. atrox*. *Proechimys* spp. have been recorded in the diets of *B. asper* in Costa Rica (Sasa et al. 2009. *Toxicon* 54:904–922) and *B. jararaca* in southeastern Brazil (Sazima 1992. *In* Campbell and Brodie [eds.], *Biology of the Pitvipers*, pp. 199–216. Selva Publishing, Tyler, Texas). This record, to the best of my knowledge, represents a novel prey item for *B. atrox*.

Further dissection of the *B. atrox* permitted examination of the maxillary fangs. Three well-developed replacement fangs (also known as accessory, auxiliary, or reserve fangs) were present posterior to the functional fang on the left maxilla. The replacement fangs were of graduated lengths with the anterior-most replacement fang being the longest. On the right maxilla, one functional fang was present with a single replacement fang immediately posterior.

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PATRICK D. MOLDOWAN, Algonquin Wildlife Research Station, P.O. Box 49, Whitney, Ontario, Canada, K0J 2M0; e-mail: pmoldowan1@laurentian.ca.

BOTHROPS JARARACUSSU (Atlantic Forest Jararacussu). DEFENSIVE BEHAVIOR. Defensive behaviors portrayed by *Bothrops* spp. are widely described in the literature; *B. jararacussu* is reported to react to disturbances with dorsal flattening, caudal



FIG. 1. *Bothrops jararacussu* exhibiting thanatosis.

vibration, cloacal discharge, strike or mouth gaping (Marques et al. 2001. *Serpentes da Mata Atlântica: Guia Ilustrado para a Serra do Mar. Holos, Ribeirão Preto.* 184 pp.). On 19 November 2015, at 0830 h, we found a female *B. jararacussu* (total length = 470 mm) in the Dacnis Project particular reserve (23.459167°S, 45.142617°W, WGS 84; elev. 15 m), in the Atlantic Forest of Ubatuba, São Paulo, southeastern Brazil. The specimen was crossing a trail in an area of dense vegetation, and was subsequently captured for biometric analysis. Upon release, it turned to its dorsum and exhibited a thanatosis (death-feigning) display (Fig. 1), which ceased once the specimen was disturbed with a snake hook; this represents the first record of thanatosis in the species.

EDELICIO MUSCAT, Projeto Dacnis. Estrada do Rio Escuro, 4954, Ubatuba, 11680-000, São Paulo, Brazil (e-mail: edelciomuscat@terra.com.br); **OMAR MACHADO ENTIAUSPE-NETO**, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande, Instituto de Ciências Biológicas, Laboratório de Vertebrados, Av. Itália Km 8, CEP: 96203-900, Vila Carreiros, Rio Grande, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil (e-mail: omarentiauspe@hotmail.com).

BOTHROPS LEUCURUS (White-tailed Lancehead). DIET. *Bothrops leucurus* is a large terrestrial pitviper that is restricted to the Atlantic Forest of Brazil, being found in the states of Espírito Santo, Bahia, Sergipe, Alagoas, Pernambuco, and Ceará, with records ranging from sea level to about 300–400 m (Campbell and Lamar 2004. *The Venomous Reptiles of the Western Hemisphere.* Comstock Publishing/Cornell University Press. Ithaca, New York. 870 pp.; Guedes et al. 2014. *Zootaxa* 3863:1–93). Like other species of the genus, *B. leucurus* presents an ontogenetic shift in diet (Argôlo 2004. *As Serpentes dos Cacaiais do Sudeste da Bahia.* Editus, Ilhéus, Brazil. 260 pp.; Lira-da-Silva 2009. *Gazeta Médica da Bahia* 79[1]:56–65); juveniles feed on ectothermic prey such as frogs and lizards and adults on endothermic prey, mainly rodents (Argôlo, *op. cit.*).

On 5 December 2011 a road-killed juvenile *B. leucurus* (22.4 cm total length) was collected at Barra do Sahy, municipality of Aracruz, state of Espírito Santo, southeastern Brazil. The posterior portion of the specimen was torn apart (Fig. 1), and contained a *Amerotyphlops brongersmianus* (14.9 cm total length) in its stomach (Fig. 1). Both specimens are housed at the Instituto Nacional da Mata Atlântica, former Museu de Biologia Prof. Mello Leitão, Santa Teresa, Espírito Santo, under the same number: MBML 3355.

Amerotyphlops brongersmianus is small fossorial blind-snake (to 32.5 cm total length) that is widely distributed in Brazil (Martins et al 2010. *Herpetol. Notes* 3:247–248) and is found in various habitats, including deforested areas and farmlands