

northeastern and midwestern Brazil (Bailey et al. 2005. Phyllo-medusa 4:83–101) in the states of Ceará, Rio Grande do Norte, Pernambuco, Bahia, and Minas Gerais (Franco et al., 2017. Salamandra 53:339–350). Its natural history is poorly known. In June 2017, a female *T. phoenix* (SVL = 35 cm; 34.31 g) was collected at the Geossítio Cachoeira de Missão Velha (7.2222°S, 39.14143°W, SAD 69; 248 m elev.), Ceará, Brazil. The specimen was euthanized and deposited in the Coleção Herpetológica da Universidade Regional do Cariri (CHURCA 13.446). The stomach contained a *Tropidurus semitaeniatus* (Fig. 1; SVL = 70 cm; mass = 11.10 g). This is the first report of predation of *Tropidurus semitaeniatus* by *T. phoenix*, and the first diet record for *T. phoenix*.

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THAMNODYNASTES SERTANEJO. DIET. *Thamnodynastes sertanejo* is a medium-sized dipsadine snake endemic to lowlands in the Caatinga biome in northeastern Brazil (Bailey et al. 2005. Phyllomedusa 4:83–101; Guedes et al. 2014. Zootaxa 3863:1–93). As with other *Thamnodynastes*, it has arboreal habits, is nocturnal, and feeds on frogs (Guedes et al., *op. cit.*). However, no specific reports of the diet of *T. sertanejo* are available in the literature. Here we report the first documented event of *T. sertanejo* feeding on frogs in nature.

Around 2100 h on 17 September 2006, an adult female *T. sertanejo* (SVL = 40.1 cm; tail length = 14.8 cm; Fig. 1A) was collected alive moving on the ground in a forested area of the Santana Range in the municipality of Lagoa Nova, state of Rio Grande do Norte, Brazil (6.127872°S, 36.554351°W, SIRGAS-2000; 600 m elev.). When dissected, its stomach contained an *Ischnocnema ramagii* (Paraíba Robber Frog; Brachycephalidae) ingested head first. The prey was found in a moderate stage of digestion and had only the head, anterior legs, and one posterior leg remaining (Fig. 1B). *Ischnocnema ramagii* is known to have terrestrial habits and occurs in isolated remnants of Atlantic Forest in the states of Paraíba, Pernambuco, and Bahia in eastern Brazil (Hedges et al. Zootaxa 1737:1–182). Although *T. sertanejo*



FIG. 1. A) Specimen of *Thamnodynastes sertanejo* (IBSP 80223) collected in the municipality of Lagoa Nova, state of Rio Grande do Norte, Brazil. B) Remains of *Ischnocnema ramagii* removed from the stomach of *T. sertanejo*.

has been reported to have arboreal habits, the presence of a terrestrial frog in its diet indicates that foraging also occurs on the ground.

The record provided here is the 13th distribution record of *T. sertanejo* in the Caatinga biome, and the first for the state of Rio Grande do Norte. Additionally, it is also the first report of occurrence of the frog *Ischnocnema ramagii* in the state of Rio Grande do Norte in a forested remnant inside Caatinga. Both snake and frog were deposited in the Herpetological Collection “Alphonse Richard Hoge” at the Butantan Institute (IBSP 80223) and were collected under permission of the Brazilian Institute for the Environment and Natural Resources (IBAMA 02021.000075/2006-71). TBG is funded by FAPESP (2013/04170-8 and 2014/18837-7).

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THAMNOPHIS PROXIMUS (Western Ribbonsnake). DEFENSIVE BEHAVIOR. Many natricine snakes display behaviors theorized as antipredator mechanisms such as pseudoautotomy, which is initiated by rotating the body to force a break when the tail is immobilized (Gregory 2016. J. Herpetol. 50:183–195). Tail pseudoautotomy has been well documented in *Thamnophis sirtalis* (Fitch 2003. Herpetol. Rev. 34:212). The aforementioned species is often found with partial or incomplete tails suggesting successful evasion of predation attempts (Placyk et al. 2005. Amphibia-Reptilia 26:353–358). Similar behavior has also been noted in *T. butleri* and *T. sauritus* (Willis et al. 1982. Copeia

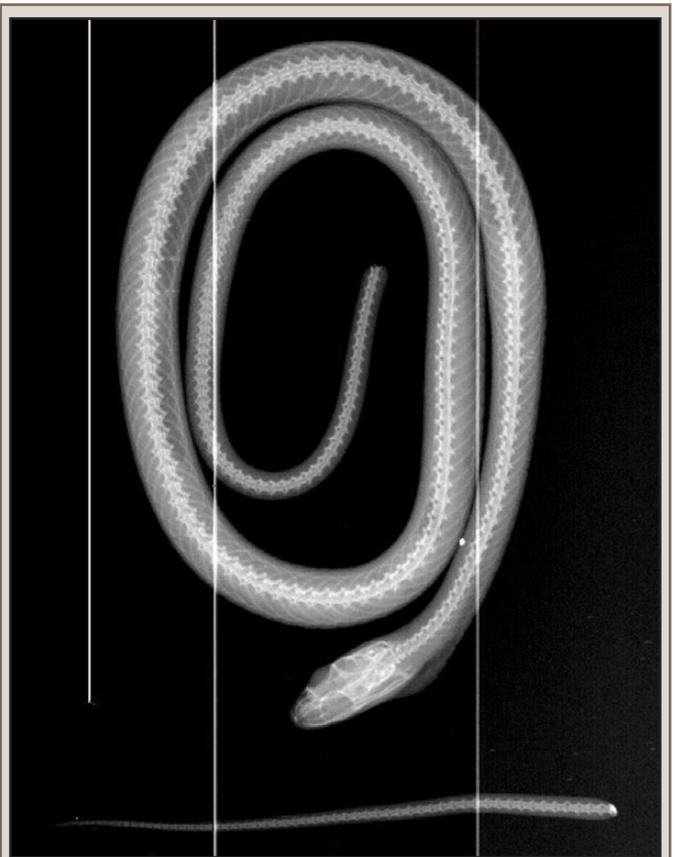


FIG. 1. Radiograph displaying the intervertebral fracture in the tail of a juvenile *Thamnophis proximus* (MZFC-HE 30636).