

Podarcis muralis (Common Wall Lizard). Tail bifurcation.

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34.0°C; Fitch 1954, *op. cit.*; Mount 1963, *op. cit.*; Brattstrom 1965, *op. cit.*). The T_p from the laboratory gradient for *P. lynxe* (27.53°C) is at the lower end of previously reported T_p for North American *Plestiodon* (range 28–32.6°C; Fitch 1954, *op. cit.*; Andrews 1994, *op. cit.*; Youssef et al. 2008, *op. cit.*). The significant relationships between T_b and environmental temperatures in our study are consistent with other studies on *Plestiodon* that have found similar significant relationships, especially with T_s (Mount 1963, *op. cit.*; Andrews 1994, *op. cit.*; Du et al. 2006, *op. cit.*). Even though there was a statistically significant difference in T_b and T_p , with T_b being higher, the difference was only 0.5°C on average, suggesting T_b and T_p are fairly similar in *P. lynxe*. This is consistent with a lack of difference in T_b and T_p observed in *P. laticeps* (Pentecost 1974, *op. cit.*). Taken together, our observations on the thermal ecology of *P. lynxe*, the most southern species of American *Plestiodon* to be examined to date, suggests that it is not much different from the other American *Plestiodon* species for which data are available. Thus, it appears that there may be conservation of thermal ecology within this genus, as suggested by Youssef et al. (2008, *op. cit.*).

This research conformed with all laws and regulations in place in Mexico at the time the research was conducted.

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PODARCIS MURALIS (Common Wall Lizard). TAIL BIFURCATION. Two specimens of *Podarcis muralis* presenting bifurcated tails were captured in August 2017 while conducting field work in the French Pyrenees. Although not uncommon in squamates (Gkourtsouli-Antoniadou et al. 2017. Herpetol. Notes. 10:233–234), tail bifurcation has to our knowledge only been formally documented once in the very widely-distributed *P. muralis* (Pola and Koleska 2017. 9th Workshop on Biodiversity, Jevany, pp. 93–97). Unlike congenital cephalic bifurcations that are readily observable in reptilian embryos, tail bifurcations are likely caused by abnormal tail regeneration and recovery in adult squamates (Rothschild et al. 2012. Herpetological Osteopathology. Springer, New York. 450 pp.).

Caudal autotomy is an anti-predatory adaptive strategy (Clause et al. 2006. J. Exp. Zool. 305A:965–973). By shedding their tail, lizards can increase their immediate locomotor performance allowing them to escape more efficiently, while potentially distracting the predator with the lost limb (Brown et al. 1995. J. Herpetol. 29:98–105). However, this strategy does not come without a cost; tail breakage can result in decrease in growth rate, loss of social status, or decline in arboreal locomotion (Bateman and Flemming 2009. J. Zool. 277: 1–14). Lizards having previously lost their tails seem to be able to learn from experience and outweigh these costs more skillfully than individuals shedding their tail for the first time (Brown et al., *op. cit.*). Tail bifurcation results from partial caudal autotomy when a new tail does not grow directly in the alignment of the original tail (Arnold 1988. *In* Gans and Huey [eds.], *Biology of Reptilia*, pp. 235–273. Alan R. Liss, New York).



FIG. 1 Tail bifurcation in *Podarcis muralis* (male individual).

PHOTO BY SERIE COLLET/MNHIN



FIG. 2 Tail bifurcation in *Podarcis muralis* (female individual).

PHOTO BY ERIC GANGLOFF

In the context of research conducted in 2017 in the Department of Ariège (France) on *P. muralis*, we captured 96 individuals among which two presented such caudal anomalies. Lizards were captured on rocky substrates or on rock walls. On 17 August 2017, we caught an adult male (SVL = 55.02 mm; tail length = 101.69 mm; 4.60 g) in the village of Aubert (42.9647°N, 1.1014°E; WGS 84; 422 m elev). On 25 August 2017 we sampled a female (SVL = 64.7 mm; tail length = 84.8 mm; 6.4 g) from Engomer (42.9458°N, 1.0556°E; WGS 84; 488 m elev). The male presented a pronounced tail split (Fig. 1) while the female exhibited tail bifurcation at the caudal extremity (Fig. 2). We have observed tail bifurcation three times in over 1500 field-caught animals (less than 0.2%), implying that such abnormality is very rare or that bifurcation is detrimental and animals manifesting this condition are quickly eliminated from the population. Research and fieldwork were conducted under current permit (Arrête Préfectoral 2017-s-02). We thank Hugo Le Chevalier and the entire ECTOPYR team for their assistance in data collection and field work.

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PRISTIDACTYLUS SCAPULATUS (Burmeister's Anole). **ENDOPARASITES.** The genus *Pristidactylus* is restricted to southern South America (Lambrot and Diaz 1987. J. Herpetol. 21:29–37) and six species of this genus are recorded from Argentina. *Pristidactylus scapulatus* is endemic to Argentina, inhabits the eastern Andean slopes of San Juan, Mendoza and Neuquén Provinces (Abdala et al. 2012. Cuad. Herpetol. 26:215–248), and feeds on invertebrates (Ceï 1993. Reptiles del Noroeste y Este de la Argentina Herpetofauna de las Selvas Subtropicales, Puna y Pampas. Museo Regionale di Scienze Naturali. Torino. 949 pp.), fruits (Acosta et al. 2004. Herpetol. Rev. 35:171–172), and occasionally other lizards (Villavicencio et al. 2009. Herpetol. Rev. 40:225–226; Sanabria and Quiroga 2009. Herpetol. Rev. 40:349–350; Victorica et al. 2018. Herpetol. Rev. 49:539). Two specimens of *P. scapulatus* (one male [96 mm SVL] and one female [97 mm SVL]) from Tocota (30.69136°S, 69.55403°W, 3214 m elev.), Iglesia Department, Provinces of San Juan, Argentina were collected (by noosing) in December 2017 and examined for helminths.

Seventeen nematodes (female fourth-stage larvae) were isolated from the stomach and identified as *Physaloptera* sp. Infection prevalence was 50% with an intensity of 17. The nematodes were deposited in the Colección Helmintológica de la Fundación Miguel Lillo, San Miguel de Tucumán, Argentina (CH-N-FML #07754). In Argentina, *Physaloptera* spp. have been reported in the following reptiles, *Liolaemus* spp. (Ramallo and Díaz 1998. Bol. Chil. Parasitol. 53:19–22; O'Grady and Dearing 2006. Oecologia 150:355–361), *Tropidurus etheridgei* (Cruz et al. 1998. Herpetol. Nat. Hist. 6:23–21), *Leiosaurus* spp., (Goldberg et al. 2004. Comp. Parasitol. 71:208–214) and *Xenodon merremi* (Lamas et al. 2016. Facena 32:59–67). *Physaloptera* sp. in *Pristidactylus scapulatus* is a new host record from San Juan Province, Argentina.

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SCELOPORUS TRISTICHUS (Plateau Fence Lizard) and **SCELOPORUS MAGISTER** (Desert Spiny Lizard). **DIET AND BEHAVIOR AT BEE NESTS.** On 10 September 2017 from 1100 to 1600 h, MCO observed a single *Sceloporus tristichus* female repeatedly striking at bees (*Anthophora peritomae*) while they entered, exited, or patrolled communal nests in a vertical sandstone embankment at Wild Horse Creek, Utah, USA (Site 1 of Orr et al. 2016 Curr. Biol. 26:R792–R793). When approached within one meter the lizard ceased feeding and either moved to a farther perch or temporarily retreated into an adjacent crevice. Around 1500 h, two additional *S. tristichus* were observed at the site, but were not observed to feed. Although *S. tristichus* has previously been recorded feeding on insect aggregations, *Anthophora peritomae* is exceptionally fast, making them much more challenging prey than the ants and other arthropods that

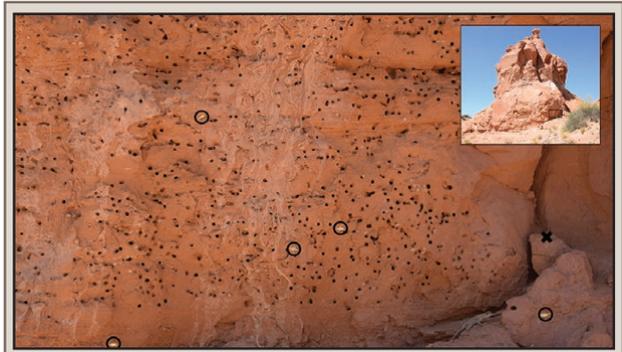


FIG. 1. *Sceloporus tristichus* observed feeding upon communal sandstone-nesting bees. The lizard is in the bottom right, left of one of the circled bees in flight. The secondary perch of the lizard is indicated by an X. An inset locator of this nest patch within the larger site is also given.

this species opportunistically ambushes (Baxter and Stone 1985. Amphibians and Reptiles of Wyoming. Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Cheyenne. 137 pp.; Hammerson 1999. Amphibians and Reptiles in Colorado. Colorado Division of Wildlife, Niwot. 484 pp.; Stebbins 2003. A Field Guide to Western Reptiles and Amphibians. Houghton Mifflin, Boston, Massachusetts. 336 pp.).

In Palm Springs, California, USA, FDP repeatedly observed *S. magister* feeding on bees (*Megachile prosopidis*) nesting in artificial substrates over the course of 2015–2017. Specifically, an individual *S. magister* male was seen climbing along the stucco outdoor wall of FDP's apartment to reach the wooden bee nest blocks mounted directly below the edges of the ~3-m-high patio roof. The predation persisted throughout each season despite efforts to dissuade predation. As only one *S. magister* was ever witnessed behaving in this manner at any given time, and this species can live at least three years (Tanner and Krogh 1973 Great Basin Nat. 33:133–146), it may be that the same individual lizard has been feeding on the aggregation for this entire period. The lizard also pursued the larger *Xylocopa varipuncta* (up to 3 cm total body length), which nested in hollow logs nearby. In one instance, *S. magister* was observed jumping and catching a female *X. varipuncta* from the *Thunbergia* sp. at which she nectared. While *S. magister* appears to be a relatively opportunistic predator, it may be that they adopt more specific habits to exploit exceptionally plentiful and consistent resources.

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SPONDYLURUS MONITAE (Monito Skink). **HABITAT USE/ BEHAVIOR.** Monito Island (18.16031°N, 67.94863°W; WGS 84) is an isolated island located in the Mona Passage, ca. 68 km W of the island of Puerto Rico, 60 km east of Hispaniola and ca. 5 km northwest of Mona Island (18.08290°N, 67.89274°W; WGS 84). It is a flat plateau with an approximate area of 15 ha surrounded by vertical cliffs rising about 66 m with no beach, and thus, is difficult to access. The island is a part of the Mona Island Natural Reserve,