

The Conservation Agency

Exploration, Education, and Research

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6 Swinburne Street
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Hi Henry -

This little note acknowledges F.F., as arrowed. It is peripheral to a big toad DNA study that ^{is} was the thing you really funded.

Thanks for your kind words in the reply to the Gulf of Guinea Islands blog response.

Best,
Slip

Continents. Between Two Seas. Univ. Chicago Press, Chicago, Illinois. 934 pp.). Eggs are often attacked by aerial (wasp: Warkentin 2000. Anim. Behav. 60: 503–510) and arboreal (snake: Donnelly and Guyer 1994. Oecologia 98:291–302; Warkentin 1995. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 92:3507–3510) predators. Here we present an account of predation of an *Agalychnis callidryas* embryo by a spider.

While conducting field work in the Researcher's Swamp at La Selva Biological Station near Puerto Viejo de Sarapiquí, Costa Rica, we observed a spider occupying a territory (i.e., seen on consecutive days within a limited area) on a leaf that contained a clutch of *A. callidryas* eggs (26 June–1 July 2008). On the fourth day after oviposition, the spider appeared to defend the clutch by moving rapidly into a position on top of the eggs as we approached. The following evening (28 June, ca. 2200 h), we witnessed the spider consuming one of the embryos from the egg clutch (Fig. 1). Although vibrational cues are known to trigger hatching in *A. callidryas* eggs (Savage 2002, *op. cit.*; Warkentin 2005. Anim. Behav. 70:59–71), none of the eggs hatched during this predation event. Before the onset of spontaneous hatching (1 July), we collected and preserved the spider, and it was later identified as a juvenile *Cupiennius getazi* (Family Ctenidae).

This is the first account of spider predation on eggs of *A. callidryas*, and to our knowledge, the only account of a spider consuming amphibian eggs. The spider was deposited at the La Selva Biological Station Museum (collection code MG.08.06; specimen LS814539). We thank Carlos Viquez (INBio, Costa Rica) for identifying the spider.

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BUFO MELANOSTICTUS (Asian Common Toad). **RECORD SIZE.** *Bufo melanostictus* is known to be the largest toad in South China, attaining an SVL of “about 10 cm” (Karsen et al. 1998. Hong Kong Amphibians and Reptiles, Provisional Urban Council, Hong Kong, China). The largest published record available is 106 mm SVL (Fei [ed.] 1999. Atlas of Amphibians of China, Henan Science and Technology Press, Zhengzhou, China). On 11 Aug 2008, at night after a rain at Wuzhi Shan (Five Finger Mountain) National Nature Reserve (18.83333°N, 109.55°E; ca. 900 m elev., WGS 84), Hainan Island (Province), we captured a female toad of great size. Pressed flat on a table, snout tip against the wall, she measured 115 mm SVL (relaxed view: Fig. 1). Identity of the species, gender, and measurement were verified by James Lazell. We had no collecting permit and released this toad to grow even larger. The photograph is accessioned at the Museum of Comparative Zoology (MCZ K-959). Our field work was sponsored in part by the Falconwood Foundation and by the grant from the Natural Science Foundation of Guangdong Province (No. 06025054). We thank J. Rosado and J. Lazell, MCZ, for photo accession assistance.

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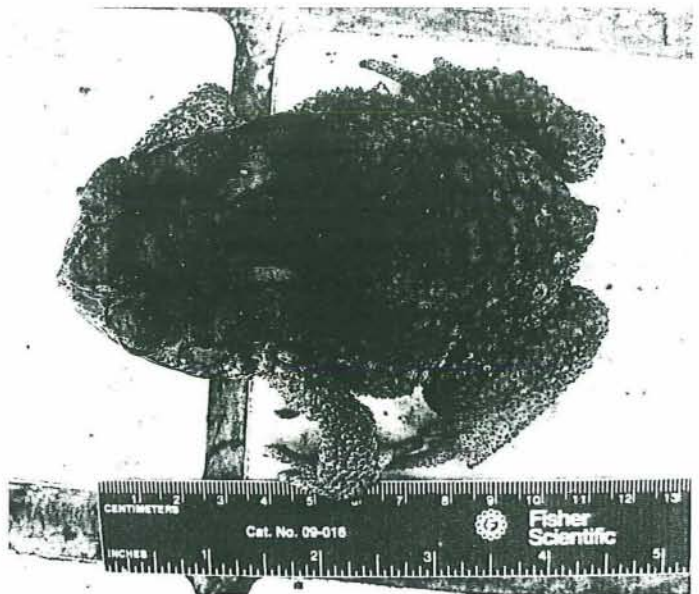


FIG. 1. Record size *Bufo melanostictus* from Hainan Island, South China.

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CENTROLENE PROSOBLEPON (Glass Frog). **REPRODUCTION.** *Centrolene prosoblepon* is a neotropical frog ranging from Honduras to Ecuador (Frost 2008. Amphibian Species of the World, ver. 5.3. <<http://research.amnh.org/herpetology/amphibia/index.html>> Accessed 14 Aug 2008). There are no data available on reproductive characteristics of this species including the number of the egg per clutch, egg size, and color of embryos at an early stage of development, i.e., less than Gosner Stage 10 (Gosner 1960. Herpetologica 16:183–190). Herein, we report this information collected near Falan (5.11666°N, 74.96666°W; WGS 84), Tolima, Colombia. Between November 2007 and May 2008, we found more than 200 egg clutches of *C. prosoblepon* laid on the top of leaves over a stream along a 600 m transect. Of these, we collected data from 40 clutches. We recorded an average of 32 eggs per clutch

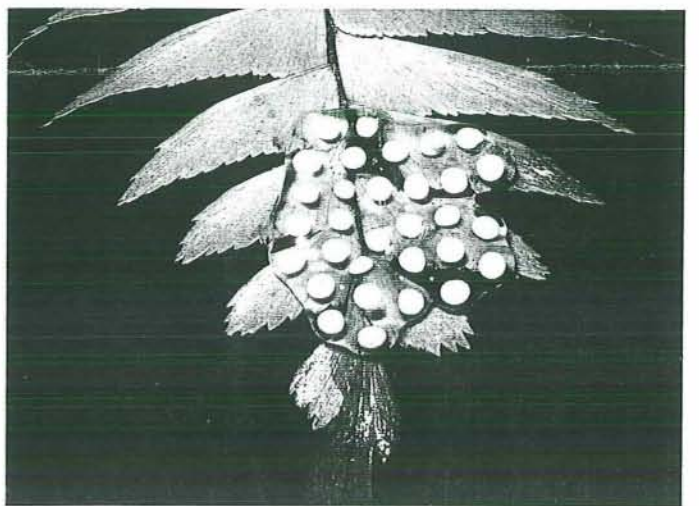


FIG. 1. Egg clutch of *Centrolene prosoblepon* from near Falan, Tolima, Colombia.