

grasped the head of the female, the second crab grasped one hind leg. The frog had large wounds at the eye region and at its shank, but still showed some motion. Checking the site about 10 min later, both crabs and the body of the frog had disappeared.

We never directly observed a crab catching a clawed frog successfully. But we often observed grasping movements of the crabs when frogs came close. A male (SVL 67 mm) and a female (SVL 88 mm) frog have been observed being grasped by crabs at the hind legs, but escaped. We also found two other *Xenopus*, a male (SVL 62 mm) and a female (SVL 96 mm), with wounds at the hind legs consistent with attack by crabs.

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### GYMNOPHIONA

**GYMNOPSIS MULTIPLICATA** (Purple Caecilian). **PREDATION.** The natural predators of *Gymnopsis multiplicata* are relatively unknown and the diet of *Micrurus mipartitus* is assumed to be other snakes (Guyer and Donnelly 2005. Pp. 228-229 in *Amphibians and Reptiles of La Selva, Costa Rica, and the Caribbean Slope*). Here I report on predation by *M. mipartitus* on *G. multiplicata* from the La Selva Biological Station, Heredia Province, Costa Rica. On 15 Oct 2005 at 2105 h, I observed an adult *M. mipartitus* (ca. SVL 80 cm) consuming an adult *G. multiplicata* (ca. SVL 35 cm; Fig. 1). This interaction was observed on the ground adjacent to the Sendero Sura trail between 200 and 250 m elevation. To the best of my knowledge, this represents the first report of a predator for *G. multiplicata* and the second report of a prey item for *M. mipartitus*.



FIG. 1. Predation by an adult *Micrurus mipartitus* on an adult *Gymnopsis multiplicata* at La Selva Biological Station, Costa Rica.

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### TESTUDINES

**ERETMOCHELYS IMBRICATA** (Hawksbill), **CHELONIA MYDAS** (Green), and **CARETTA CARETTA** (Loggerhead) Seaturtles. **EPIZOANS.** The Columbus Crab, *Planes* sp., is a common epizoan of oceanic stage (juvenile) Loggerhead Seaturtles (*Caretta caretta*) in the southwestern Atlantic. Columbus or Swimming Crabs, including *Planes minutus*, *P. cyaneus*, and *P. marinus*, are essentially oceanic species rarely found near the coast (Davenport. 1992. J. Mar. Biol. Ass. U.K. 77:611-620), and occur on both natural and artificial floating material (Chace 1951. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. 101:65-103; Dellinger et al. 1997. J. Mar. Biol. Ass. U.K. 77:185-194). Columbus Crabs occurred with 83% of southwestern Atlantic juvenile Loggerheads (Carranza et al. 2004. Mar. Turtle Newsl. 102:5-7), 82% of those found off Madeira Island (Dellinger et al. 1997, *op. cit.*), and 27% from the Mediterranean (Casale et al. 2004. J. Mar. Biol. Ass. U.K. 84:1005-1006).

On the other hand, Columbus Crabs rarely are reported to associate with other sea turtle species. Columbus Crabs were scantily reported for the Olive Ridley Seaturtle, *Lepidochelys olivacea*, in Playon de Mexiquillo, Pacific coast of Mexico (Díaz et al. 1992. Publ. Soc. Herpetol. Mex. 1:19-25) and Chile (Miranda and Moreno. 2002. Rev. Biol. Mar. Oceanogr. 37:145-146), both pertaining to *P. minutus*, while off La Jolla, California, (Hubbs 1977. California Fish Game 63:263-267) and Jalisco, Mexico (Hernandez-Vazquez and Valadez-Gonzales 1998. Cienc. Mar. 24:119-125) they pertain to *P. cyaneus*. For the Hawksbill Seaturtle, *Eretmochelys imbricata*, Chace (1951, *op. cit.*) reported *P. minutus* from Rhode Island turtles and *P. cyaneus* from Baja California, while Schärer (2003. Rev. Biol. Trop. 51:87-89) reported only 3 out of 105 Hawksbills to be associated with *P. minutus* in Puerto Rico. Schärer (2003, *op. cit.*) found them associated with small turtles, and argue they were probably arriving from a pelagic habitat. For Green Seaturtles, *Chelonia mydas*, *P. cyaneus* was recorded by Crane (1937. *apud* Chace 1951, *op. cit.*) in Baja California, by Chace (1951, *op. cit.*) in Acapulco, Santa Inez Bay, Mexico, in the Galápagos Islands, by Brown and Brown (1995. In K.A. Bjorndal [ed.], *Biology and Conservation of Sea Turtles*, pp. 235-240. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C.) in Peru, by Wickstein and Behrens (2000. SCAMIT Newsl. 19:7) in California, and by Green (1998. NOAA Tech. Memo. 412:63) who reported 'small crabs hiding among algae' on Galápagos Green Seaturtles, which could be Columbus Crabs.

*Planes cyaneus* and *P. marinus* are the species that occur in the southwestern Atlantic (Juanicó 1976. Dusenja 9:145-150; Spivak and Bas 1999. J. Crustacean Biol. 19:72-76; Prado and Melo 2002. Crustaceana 75:579-595), but only the former was reported as a commensal of Loggerhead Seaturtles by Carranza et al. (2003, *op. cit.*). During 2005 we found Columbus Crabs associated with Hawksbill, Green, and Loggerhead turtles and report these findings here. Crabs were identified according to Chace (1951, *op. cit.*) and Spivak and Bas (1999, *op. cit.*) and all belong to *P. cyaneus*. Records for each turtle species are given in detail below.

A juvenile Hawksbill Seaturtle (Curved Carapace Length, CCL