might cause railroads to be an ecological trap (Dias 1996. Trends Ecol. Evol. 11:326–330). Further research should be conducted to investigate survival and reproductive success of reptiles along railways. Mitigation measures could be taken to reduce levels of disturbance during critical nesting periods.

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***LEPTODEIRA FRENATA* (Mayan Cat-eyed Snake). DIET.** *Leptodeira frenata* is distributed in Central America; within Mexico, it is found in the Yucatán Peninsula, Tabasco, and central Veracruz, from near sea level to ca. 1000 m elev. (Heimes 2016. Herpetofauna Mexicana Vol. 1: Snakes of Mexico. Edition Chimaira, Frankfurt am Main, Germany. 435 pp.). Its diet includes frogs, toads, and lizards (Carbajal-Márquez et al. 2019. Cuad. Herpetol. 33:71–74). Among frogs, *Smilisca baudinii* has been reported as prey (Henderson and Hovers 1977. Copeia 1977:349–355; Köhler et al. 2016. Mesoam. Herpetol. 3:930–947) and Lee (1996. The Amphibians and Reptiles of the Yucatán Peninsula. Comstock Publishing Associates, Cornell University Press, Ithaca, New York. 500 pp.) mentions that Barbour and Cole (1906. Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool. 50:146–159) reported an individual of *Triprion petasatus* in the stomach of an *L. frenata* from Chichen-Itza (University of Michigan Museum of Zoology [UMMZ] 73027); nevertheless, this record is not mentioned in Barbour and Cole (1906, *op. cit.*).

At ca. 2240 h on 20 May 2021, RFV found an adult *L. frenata* that had captured an adult *T. petasatus* by the right arm (Fig. 1) inside a house in Temozón Sur, Yucatán, Mexico (20.68777°N, 89.65392°W; WGS 84; 15 m elev.). The snake held the frog for several minutes until it died. Ingestion was not observed, however, minutes later the snake was observed with a full stomach. This observation confirms that *T. petasatus* is part of the natural diet of *L. frenata*.

PHOTO BY RENÉ FLORES-VEGA

FIG. 1. *Leptodeira frenata* eating an adult *Triprion petasatus* in Yucatán, México.

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***MASTICOPHIS BILINEATUS* (Sonoran Whipsnake). DIET.** *Masticophis bilineatus* is a diurnal, agile, and fast-moving forager that searches for food among rocks and the lower branches of vegetation in deserts, grasslands, tropical thorn forest, deciduous forest, and pine-oak forests of Mexico and southern Arizona and New Mexico, USA (Heimes 2016. Herpetofauna Mexicana. Vol. 1 Snakes of Mexico. Edition Chimaira, Frankfurt am Main, Germany. 240 pp.). It is generally known to prey on lizards (mostly the genus *Aspidoscelis*), birds (and bird eggs; Gatica-Colima et al. 2015. Herpetol. Rev. 46:100–101), small mammals, frogs, and occasionally other snakes (Heimes 2016, *op. cit.*; Lemos Espinal et al. 2019. Amphibians and Reptiles of Durango, México. ECO-Herpetological Publishing and Distribution, Rodeo, New Mexico. 187 pp.). However, there have been no reports of the diet of *M. bilineatus* in western Mexico. Here, we report an additional species of lizard prey, *Aspidoscelis costatus* (Western Mexico Whiptail) from Sinaloa, Mexico.

FIG. 1. *Masticophis bilineatus* preying on *Aspidoscelis costatus* in Juan Escutia, Mocorito, Sinaloa, México.

On 5 July 2022, at 1948 h, we observed a juvenile *M. bilineatus* preying on juvenile *A. costatus* (Fig. 1) in tropical deciduous forest in the locality ejido Juan Escutia, Municipality of Mocorito, Sinaloa, Mexico (25.04330°N, 107.39360°W; WGS 84; 62 m elev.). The snake detected the moving whiptail, which was apparently foraging in leaf litter substrate, which allowed the snake to stalk and capture the whiptail. Following ingestion, the snake retreated slowly into the leaf litter.

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***MASTICOPHIS LATERALIS EURYXANTHUS* (Alameda Whipsnake). ENTRAPMENT.** Reptiles and amphibians have been reported to be subjects of entrapment in both natural and unnatural conditions (Hawken 1951. Herpetologica 7:81–83; Brattstrom 1953. Trans. San Diego Soc. Nat. Hist. 11:365–392; Delibes et al. 2001. Am. Nat. 158:277–285; Villa et al. 2018. Historical Biology 32:55–70). Various snake species have been reported when entrapped in anthropogenic materials and structures such as netting (Stuart et al. 2001. Herpetol. Rev. 32:162–163), spilled asphalt (Harris 1985. Bull. Maryland Herpetol. Soc. 21:151–152), and an underground pipeline through a manhole cover (Hawken 1951, *op. cit.*). The latter mechanism was reported to collect 125 snakes of 7 species over a two-month period, including the state and federally endangered *Thamnophis sirtalis tetrataenia* (San Francisco Gartersnake). Here we report on the entrapment of another rare snake species, *Masticophis lateralis euryxanthus*, in an anthropogenic structure.

On 27 July 2003, the senior author was walking through the Lime Ridge Open Space, Walnut Creek, California, USA (37.92541°N, 121.99331°W; WGS 84). The site is comprised of open, non-native annual grassland, oak (*Quercus*) woodland, and broken chaparral habitats, which is also the putative habitat of the *M. l. euryxanthus* (Alvarez et al. 2005. Trans. Western Section of The Wildl. Soc. 41:21–25). Three reinforced concrete pipes (0.77 m inside diameter; length unknown) were found standing on end and imbedded below grade (Fig. 1). The pipes were connected in series at the top rim with 1-inch pipe to form a settling well and drain system. Entrapped in one of the pipes were four adult *M. l. euryxanthus* and one skeletal *M. l. euryxanthus*, all of which were clearly unable to self-extricate, due to the steep sides and depth of the pit formed by the pipe (ca. 0.8 m). The four specimens recovered appeared in good health and were released into native habitat at the site of capture. The skeletal remains were left undisturbed at the site. The site was subsequently revisited and, with the assistance of K. Swaim (Swaim Biological), branches were placed within the culverts in a manner that would allow climbing reptiles to self-extricate. Because of the threatened status of this species, the observation was reported to a state database for special-status species.

Fig. 1. Oblique view of three standing, buried, concrete pipes that formed unescapable pitfall traps in which four live *Masticophis lateralis euryxanthus* were found and removed in Walnut Creek, California, USA.

We contend that entrapment of wildlife species, and in our case, special-status snakes, is avoidable if conditions like those found here are not allowed. In our case, the placement of these culverts was clearly purposeful, but the site was unmaintained overtime. These devices (i.e., wells and settling tanks), as well as troughs and similar devices should be equipped with wildlife escape ramps. Additionally, materials such as concrete pipes are frequently used on construction projects within the range of this species. Further, measures to reduce or eliminate potential take of special-status species should include storage of materials in a manner that precludes entrapment of any species. This may include storing pipes and similar objects on their side. Project permitting should include specific direction to remove all construction debris and supplies prior to leaving the site.

We thank K. Swaim for assistance in placing vegetation in the culverts to reduce or eliminate further take of reptiles.

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***MICRELAPS MUELLERI* (Erdviper). REPRODUCTION.** *Micrelaps muelleri* is a mildly venomous, rear–fanged snake that occurs in southwestern Syria, western Lebanon, Israel, and northwestern Jordan (Bar et al. 2021. Field Guide to the Amphibians and Reptiles of Israel. Edition Chimaira, Frankfurt am Main, Germany. 511 pp.). Information on its reproduction is limited to a report of two oviductal eggs from a female collected in June and it is viviparous (Bar et al. 2021, *op. cit.*). In this note I report a new clutch size for *M. muelleri*. One *M. muelleri* female from Israel was examined from the herpetology collection of the Zoology Museum of Tel Aviv University (TAU), Tel Aviv, Israel: TAU 16426 (438 mm SVL; collected August 2012; Golan Heights Region, 32.97566°N, 35.74299°E; WGS 84). A small incision was made in the lower part of the abdomen and the ovaries were exposed. Four oviductal eggs were present. They measured: 28 × 5 mm, 24 × 5 mm, 24 × 5 mm, and 23 × 4 mm. The eggs were not dissected, but externally there was no evidence of embryonic development. Four is a new maximum clutch size for *M. muelleri*.

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***OXYBELIS MICROPHTHALMUS* (Thornscrub Vine Snake). DIET.** *Oxybelis microphthalmus* is a large and thin snake in the *O. aeneus* complex that is primarily arboreal and diurnal. Its distribution extends from 0–2251 m asl, from southeastern Arizona, USA, southward to Oaxaca, Mexico. It inhabits in a variety of vegetation types, including low deciduous forest, medium subperennifolia forest, subtropical scrubland, dry forest, riparian vegetation, and is also known to penetrate the edge of oak forest (Quintero-Díaz and Carbajal-Márquez 2017. Mesoam. Herpetol. 4:181–182; Jadin et al. 2020. Organisms Divers. Evol. 20:723–746). The diet of species in the *O. aeneus* complex includes birds, small mammals, insects, fish, and amphibians. However, the main component in the diet of this snake is lizards (Cid-Mora and Vázquez-Cruz. 2020. Mesoam. Herpetol. 3:98–100). *Oxybelis microphthalmus* is known to consume lizards of the genus *Aspidoscelis*, such as *A. deppii* (Ramírez-Bautista et al. 2020. IRCF