

which was hidden under the litter, we moved a leaf and accidentally startled the *Alsophis*, which struck at us several times before releasing the hawk and moving into the litter, revealing a superficial head wound as it fled.

After release, the hawk stumbled on an apparently numbed right leg and seemed unable to flex its right wing; upon returning to the site approximately three hours later, however, we observed the bird, seemingly unharmed, flying between trees.

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Exploitation of the Night-light Niche by a Dominican Racer

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Normally diurnal West Indian anoles (Polychrotidae: *Anolis*) are known to exploit insects attracted to artificial lights well into the night (e.g., Perry and Fisher 2006, Henderson and Powell 2009). Secondary exploitation of nocturnal anoles by a typically diurnal predator, the Puerto Rican Racer (*Alsophis portoricensis*), has been reported on hotel grounds on Guana Island, British Virgin Islands (Perry and Lazell 2000).

At 1915 h (transition to full dark) on 18 June 2008, we observed a male Dominican Racer (*Alsophis antillensis sibonius*; SVL 525 mm, tail 247 mm) in a foraging position at the base of a light frequently used by a nocturnally active Dominican Anole (*Anolis oculatus*). The observation occurred on the grounds of the Sunset Bay Club at Batali Beach, on the leeward coast of Dominica, Lesser Antilles.

Based on our experiences, exploitation of the night-light niche has become commonplace among West Indian anoles associated with urban areas and other situations in which artificial lighting is prevalent at night (e.g., hotels, resorts). However, both situations in which snakes have been observed exploiting the night-light niche (Guana Island, Batali Beach) have been “snake-friendly”; that is, guests and personnel of the hotels are instructed not to harm snakes that enter areas frequented by humans. Under more typical circumstances (i.e., where snakes would be killed or, at least, removed from the area), we doubt that snakes would have the opportunity to learn to exploit this potentially productive trophic niche.

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A Dominican Anole (*Anolis oculatus*) exploiting the night-light niche on the grounds of the Sunset Bay Club at Batali Beach, Dominica.

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A Dominican Racer (*Alsophis antillensis sibonius*) in a foraging position at the base of a light such as that illustrated on the facing page. This foraging posture, with the anterior portion of the body elevated at the base of the light, is essentially similar to that observed in snakes at the bases of tree trunks in more “natural” habitats (L.A. White and P.J. Muelleman, pers. comm.).

Juvenile Pattern and Ontogenetic Pattern Changes in Dominican Racers

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Alsophis antillensis sibonius is endemic to Dominica, Lesser Antilles. Although Schwartz and Henderson (1991) described adults, thorough descriptions of juveniles have not been published. During a June 2008 study conducted primarily at Cabrits National Park, we made >160 observations of an undetermined number of snakes. Included in the observations were five juveniles, for four of which we collected and recorded pattern data. The only previous description of the juvenile pattern was by Parker (1933): “... an undulating dark vertebral stripe, a narrow lateral line, and dark spots on the flanks and hinder parts of the belly.”

The top of the head in juveniles is uniformly brown, darkening laterally, with very dark brown to black lines extending

from the snout and through the eyes before blending into the darker elements of the body pattern. Supralabials are white, sometimes with faint specks of light brown or gray. Faint to moderately distinct stippling occurs on infralabials, chin, and throat.

Juveniles have distinct brown middorsal “saddles” faintly outlined in black on a white to pale gray or tan ground color. Most saddles on any one individual are in contact, forming a continuous middorsal line with paired lateral extensions. These saddles may be obliquely situated or offset, forming a wavy (“zigzag”) line along at least portions of the dorsum. At least a few saddles on each animal are isolated by pale ground color extending across the middorsal line. On all juveniles examined,