



Attempted Predation of a Bahamian Racer (*Cubophis vudii vudii*) by a Bahamian Boa (*Chilabothrus strigilatus strigilatus*) on New Providence, The Bahamas

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At 1611 h on 14 February 2021, I received a call from Jason Wong, a homeowner, about a large Bahamian Boa coiled around another snake in his yard (25°02'42.2"N, 77°16'45.7"W). He thought the snakes might have been mating. I visited the residence where I found the Bahamian Boa (*Chilabothrus strigilatus strigilatus*) entwined in a chain-link fence with a Bahamian Racer (*Cubophis vudii vudii*) in its coils. Only the posterior third of the racer was caught in the coils of the boa but Mr. Wong and his family stated that the snakes were wrapped around each other much more tightly before I arrived. I captured both animals and released them in a national park.

Nocturnal Bahamian Boas and diurnal Bahamian Racers are unlikely to interact and I suspect that the actively foraging racer encountered the boa in a diurnal refugium. Both species are opportunistic feeders, consuming frogs, lizards, birds, and mammals (Schwartz and Henderson 1991; Tolson and Henderson 1993; Henderson and Powell 2009). Ophiophagy has been observed in both Bahamian Racers (Henderson and Sajdak 1996) and Bahamian Boas (Mittermeier 2011), but the latter have been observed consuming other snakes only in captivity. This is the first observation of attempted predation by a Bahamian Boa on a Bahamian Racer in nature.



Fig. 1. A Bahamian Boa (*Chilabothrus strigilatus strigilatus*) entwined in a chain-link fence with a Bahamian Racer (*Cubophis vudii vudii*) in its coils on New Providence, The Bahamas. Photograph by Scott Johnson.

Acknowledgements

I thank Jason Wong and his family for informing me about the snakes and for the invitation to visit his residence to retrieve them.

Literature Cited

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