Ariophantid snails are feeding on the skin of a road-killed Indian Skipper Frog (Euphlyctis cyanophlyctis). Photograph by Parashuram Bajantri.

At 0729 h on 12 August 2018, on a roadside at Kolhapur, Maharashtra, India (16.67420°N, 74.2420°E; elev. 571 m asl), we observed a Horntail Snail (Macrochlamys indica) feeding on the outer epidermis of a road-killed Syhadra Cricket Frog (Minervarya syhadrensis) (Fig. 2).

That both snails were feeding on skin and apparently avoiding muscular parts is of interest and worthy of further research, especially since amphibian integumentary gland secretions contain toxins that can deter at least some predators and presumably some scavengers (Clarke 1997). These observations also suggest that land snails more frequently scavenge dead vertebrates than has been recorded.

Fig. 1. An ariophantid snail (Ariophanta cf. belangeri) feeding on the skin of a road-killed Indian Skipper Frog (Euphlyctis cyanophlyctis). Photograph by Parashuram Bajantri.

Fig. 2. A Horntail Snail (Macrochlamys indica) feeding on the outer epidermis of a road-killed Syhadra Cricket Frog (Minervarya syhadrensis). Photograph by Saurabh Kininge.
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Literature Cited


