



Predation by a Green Vinesnake, *Oxybelis fulgidus* (Squamata: Colubridae), on a Bridled Forest Gecko, *Gonatodes humeralis* (Squamata: Sphaerodactylidae), in Colombia

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The Green Vinesnake (*Oxybelis fulgidus*) is distributed from Mexico to Argentina (Savage 2002; Solórzano 2004; Miranda et al. 2013; Uetz et al. 2021; Del Toro-Orozco et al. 2021). This snake is a diurnal, arboreal, opisthognathous colubrid (Savage 2002; Solórzano 2004; Cherry et al. 2017), and has been described as a “sit and wait” predator that occasionally forages for prey (Fischer and Gascon 1996; Martins and Oliveira 1998; Sosa-Bartuano and Rodríguez-Beitía 2015). Its diet consists mainly of lizards, birds, frogs, and the occasional mammal (Savage 2002; Capurucho and Caldeira 2012; Viana et al. 2014; Díaz-Gamboa et al. 2017; Smith et al. 2018; von May et al. 2018; Hernández-Ruiz 2019; Rodríguez-Pérez and Mata-Silva 2019; Almeida et al. 2020; Nahuat-Cervera et al. 2020; Del Toro-Orozco et al. 2021).

The Bridled Forest Gecko (*Gonatodes humeralis*) ranges throughout much of northern South America (Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Suriname, Guyana, French Guiana, Peru, Brazil, Bolivia) and the islands of Trinidad and Tobago (Avila-Pires 1995; Vitt et al. 2000; Barrio-Amorós and Brewer-Carias 2008; Barrio-Amorós 2010; Schargel et al. 2010; Avila-Pires et al. 2012; Roberto et al. 2014; Oliveira-Souza et al. 2021; Uetz et al. 2021). *Gonatodes humeralis* is diurnal and lives in a wide variety of natural habitats, including rainforest and gallery forest, but also is frequently observed in disturbed areas (Avila-Pires 1995; Vitt et al. 2000; Avila-Pires et al. 2012; Roberto et al. 2014; Oliveira-Souza et al. 2021; Schunck et al. 2021).

Around noon on 7 May 2021, near a wooded area in Leticia, Amazonas, Colombia, we observed a Green Vinesnake

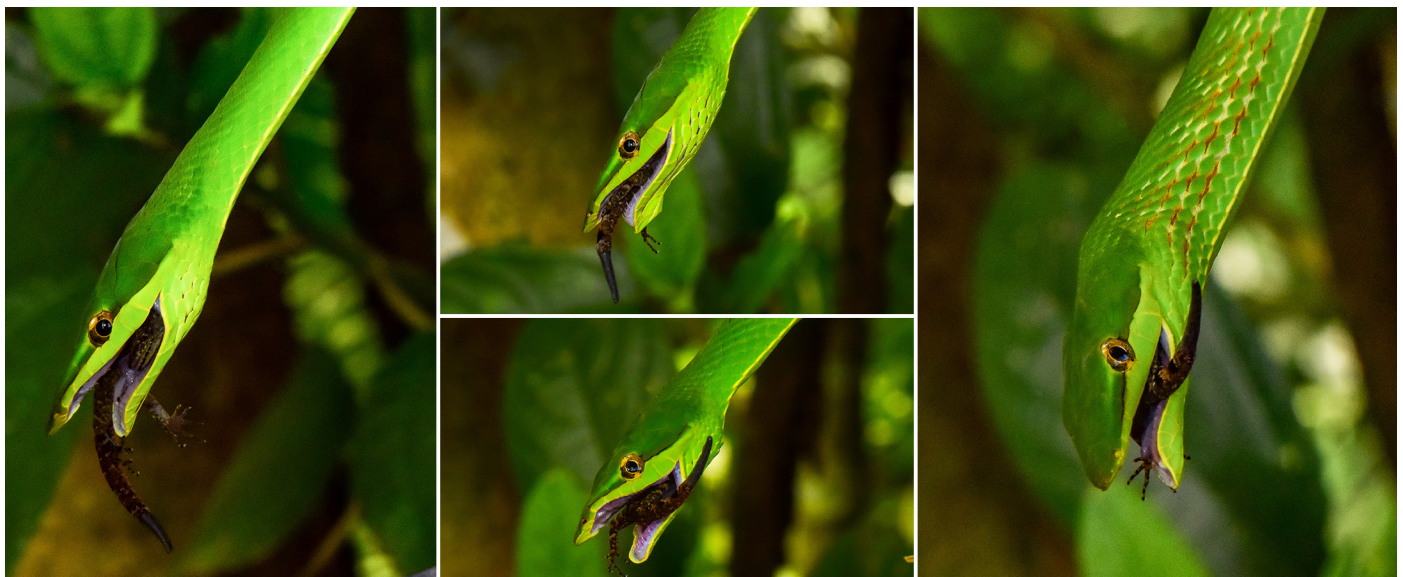


Fig. 1. A Green Vinesnake (*Oxybelis fulgidus*) ingesting a Bridled Forest Gecko (*Gonatodes humeralis*) in Leticia, Amazonas, Colombia. Photographs by Darío Alarcón-Naforo.

(*Oxybelis fulgidus*) preying on a female *Gonatodes humeralis* (Fig. 1). The snake was on a tree and barbed wire, about 130 cm above the ground, holding the gecko by its upper body when first encountered. Complete head-first ingestion took only a few minutes.

Gonatodes humeralis is natural prey of various birds and snakes (Oliveira-Souza et al. 2021; Schunck et al. 2021) and predation by a Brown Vinesnake (*Oxybelis aeneus*) has been reported (Oliveira-Souza et al. 2021); however, this is the first record of *Oxybelis fulgidus* preying on *Gonatodes humeralis*.

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