COLÓN ARCHILLA



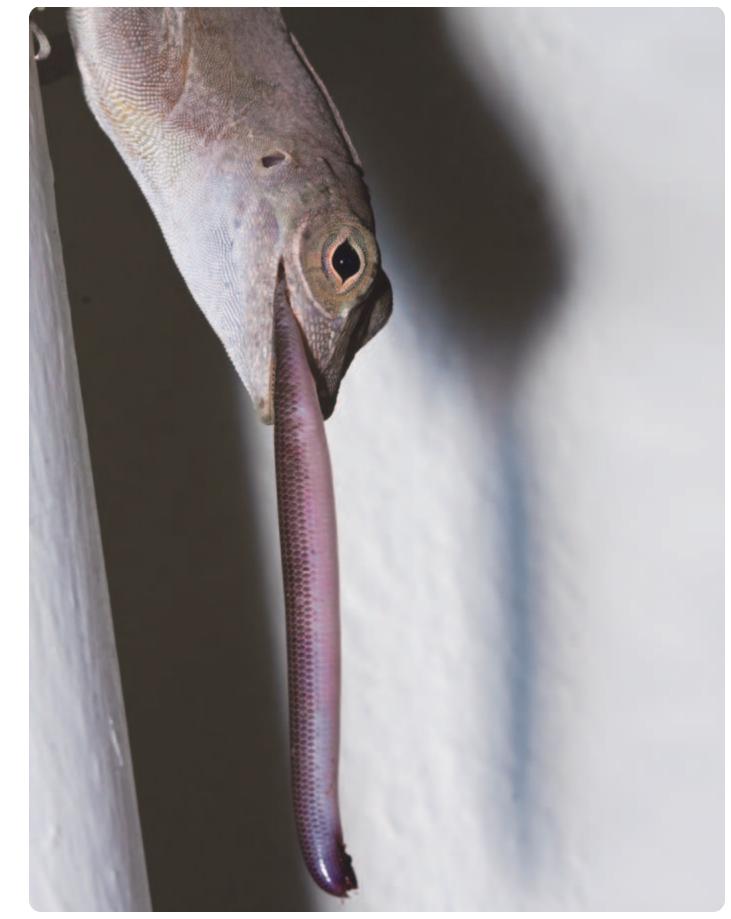
San Juan, Puerto Rico

n 11 March 2009, I noticed what I initially thought was a lizard genus Typhlops are burrowers that feed almost exclusively on small eating a worm in my backyard in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The arthropods (e.g., ants, termites, beetles). Nevertheless, one has to lizard was a Crested Anole (Anolis cristatellus) and the "worm" turned appreciate the irony of a lizard "turning the tables" and eating a out to be a Puerto Rican Coastal Blindsnake (Typhlops hypomethes) at snake. least as long as the anole. When I disturbed the lizard, it quickly moved away, but never released what would be a very large, high-Acknowledgments Fr. Alejandro J. Sánchez Muñoz alerted me to the significance of this energy meal.

Many West Indian snakes, including racers (Didsadidae) and unusual predation event. Richard Thomas confirmed the identity of boas (Boidae), feed primarily on lizards, although Blindsnakes in the the snake.



tured (rather than scavenged) it.



A Crested Anole (Anolis cristatellus) eating a Puerto Rican Coastal Blindsnake (Typhlops hypomethes).

Turning the Tables: Lizard Eats Snake

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Photographs by the author.

The presence of excrement under the snake's tail, which is released as an alarm or defensive behavior, indicates that the snake was alive when the anole cap-