



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.

On 11 March 2009, I noticed what I initially thought was a lizard eating a worm in my backyard in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The lizard was a Crested Anole (*Anolis cristatellus*) and the “worm” turned out to be a Puerto Rican Coastal Blindsnake (*Typhlops hypomethes*) at 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-energy meal.

Many West Indian snakes, including racers (Dipsadidae) and boas (Boidae), feed primarily on lizards, although Blindsnakes in the

genus *Typhlops* are burrowers that feed almost exclusively on small arthropods (e.g., ants, termites, beetles). Nevertheless, one has to appreciate the irony of a lizard “turning the tables” and eating a snake.

Acknowledgments

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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 captured (rather than scavenged) it.