



# Predation of a Caribbean Ditchfrog, *Leptodactylus insularum* (Anura: Leptodactylidae), by a Lined Groundsnake, *Lygophis lineatus* (Squamata: Dipsadidae)

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The Caribbean Ditchfrog (*Leptodactylus insularum*) is widely distributed in the lowlands of southern Central and northern South America (Costa Rica, Panamá, Colombia, Venezuela) and on the islands of Trinidad and Tobago (González-Durán and Escobar-Lasso 2014; Hurme 2015; Franzen 2017). The Lined Groundsnake (*Lygophis lineatus*) is distributed in Central and South America, ranging from Panamá south to Argentina (Lopes et al. 2021; Uetz et al. 2021). The diet of this species is known to include frogs, lizards, and insects (Angarita-Sierra et al. 2013; Rojas-Murcia

et al. 2015; Lopes et al. 2021), and cannibalism has been reported (Escalona 2012).

At about noon on 26 May 2005, we encountered a Lined Groundsnake feeding on a Caribbean Ditchfrog (Fig. 1) in the municipality of Arjona, Bolívar, Colombia. The snake initially grabbed the frog by the posterior body before swallowing it hindlimbs first. Complete ingestion took only a few minutes.

Predation by *Lygophis lineatus* on frogs of the genus *Leptodactylus* has been documented (Escalona 2012; Lopes et



**Fig. 1.** A Lined Groundsnake (*Lygophis lineatus*) ingesting a Caribbean Ditchfrog (*Leptodactylus insularum*) in Arjona, Bolívar, Colombia. Photographs by John Calderón.

al. 2021); however, to the best of our knowledge, this is the first record of predation on *L. insularum*.

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