



Predation of a Mouse-eared Bat, *Myotis* sp. (Chiroptera: Vespertilionidae), by a Juvenile Mangrove Treeboa, *Corallus ruschenbergerii* (Cope 1875) (Squamata: Boidae), in Darién, Panamá

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The Mangrove Treeboa (*Corallus ruschenbergerii*) occurs from the Pacific Coast of southwestern Costa Rica through Panamá, northern Colombia, and coastal Venezuela to Trinidad and Tobago (Köhler 2008; Henderson 2015; Natera Mumaw et al. 2015; O’Shea 2018). Due to the low density of snake populations, incidental observations are effective methods of obtaining valuable data on the diets of snakes (Henderson and Pauers 2012). Juvenile *C. ruschenbergerii* feed primarily on lizards, whereas adults eat large lizards (e.g., basilisks, *Basiliscus* spp., and Green Iguanas, *Iguana iguana*) birds, and mammals (marsupials, rodents, bats, and even Small Indian Mongooses, *Urva auropunctata*) (Boos 2001; Solórzano 2004; Henderson and Pauers 2012; Henderson 2015; Barrio-Amorós 2017). Henderson and Pauers (2012) mentioned seven species of bats in the diets of snakes in the genus *Corallus*, including a record of predation

on a Silver-tipped Myotis (*Myotis albescens*) by an Amazon Treeboa (*Corallus hortulanus*).

At 2000 h on 7 October 2020, during a field trip in the Private Reserve Punta Patiño, Darien Province, Panama (8.258783°N, 78.268116°W; elev. 49 m asl), we encountered a juvenile *Corallus ruschenbergerii* (ca. 660 mm total length, Fig. 1A) on a tree about 3 m above the ground in lowland deciduous forest with little understory due to forest fires in recent years. When manipulated, it regurgitated a partially digested adult Mouse-eared Bat (*Myotis* sp.), which was deposited in the Museo de Vertebrados de la Universidad de Panamá (MVUP-1809; Fig. 1B). The state of digestion precluded identification to species. However, the length of the forearm (33 mm), the black dorsal hair, and the shape of the snout were characteristic of the genus *Myotis* and allowed us to exclude other genera (e.g., *Eptesicus* and *Rhogeessa*) that are



Fig. 1. A juvenile Mangrove Treeboa (*Corallus ruschenbergerii*) (A) and the regurgitated carcass of a Mouse-eared Bat (*Myotis* sp.) (B). Photographs by Ángel Sosa Bartuano (A) and Melquiades Castillo (B).

similar in size and shape (LaVal and Rodríguez 2002). This is the first documentation of a bat of the genus *Myotis* in the diet of *C. ruschenbergerii*.

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