



Cannibalism in the Yellow-bellied Gecko (*Hemidactylus flaviviridis*) from Satara, Maharashtra, India

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Life histories and competitive interactions of amphibian and reptilian populations can be strongly influenced by cannibalism (Polis and Myers 1985; Mitchell 1986; Bonke et al. 2011), although this is less common in reptiles than in amphibians (Pough et al. 2001). Cannibalism among house geckos has been reported previously (Polis and Myers 1985; Pombal and Pombal 2010; Dissanayake 2017; Lyakurwa 2017; Borroto-Páez and Reyes Pérez 2020; Caballero and Pérez 2021). The Yellow-bellied House Gecko (*Hemidactylus flaviviridis*) is distributed in coastal and near-coastal areas around the Red Sea, Persian Gulf, and Arabian Sea, as well as parts of Pakistan, Nepal, India, and Bangladesh (Schleich and Kästle 2002; Sindaco and Jeremčenko 2008). In India, *H. flaviviridis* has been recorded in Punjab, Delhi, Bihar, Gujarat, Assam, Orissa, Maharashtra, and Bengal (Günther 1864; Theobald 1876; Das et al. 2011). These insectivorous

house geckos also are known to prey on small snakes and other geckos (Bauer 1990; Parves et al. 2015). Herein we document cannibalism in *H. flaviviridis*.

At 1220 h on 24 August 2021, we observed a large adult *H. flaviviridis* feeding on a juvenile of the same species on an old house near Godoli Lake, Satara, Maharashtra, India (17.67944°N, 74.015277°E; 695 m asl). The gecko initially had caught its prey by the tail. Ingestion took approximately 13 min, with most of that time spent swallowing the head and forelimbs while the prey was still struggling to escape. After ingestion was complete, the adult gecko hid in a wall crevice.

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Fig. 1. Cannibalism in the Yellow-bellied Gecko (*Hemidactylus flaviviridis*) on an old house near Godoli Lake, Satara, Maharashtra, India, in August 2021. Photograph by Mayur Adagale.

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