



# Predation of a Jumping Frog, *Leptodactylus macrosternum* Miranda-Ribeiro 1926 (Anura: Leptodactylidae), by a Yellow Curichera, *Erythrolamprus poecilogyrus* (Wied-Neuwied 1824) (Squamata: Colubridae), in Santísima Trinidad, Beni, Bolivia

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Species of the genus *Erythrolamprus* Boie 1826 (Colubridae) are widely distributed in the Neotropics (Arzamendia 2016; Nogueira et al. 2019; Uetz et al. 2022). In Bolivia, 16 species have been reported to date (Fugler et al. 1995; Embert 2007; Uetz et al. 2022), of which *Erythrolamprus poecilogyrus* (Wied-Neuwied 1824) has the most extensive distribution, occurring in a diversity of wet and dry environments throughout lowland habitats (Fugler et al. 1995; Gonzales 1998; Cortez-Fernández 2005; Embert 2007; Pinto-Viveros et al. 2015; Mano-Cuellar et al. 2015; Eversole et al. 2021; Rivas et al. 2022). *Erythrolamprus poecilogyrus* is active during both day and night, and is most frequently documented during the rainy season (Marqués et al. 2001; Sawaya et al. 2008; Rivas et al. 2022). It is a typically terrestrial generalist found

in grasslands, forests, caves, cracks, curiches (wetlands), disturbed areas, and even houses (Marqués et al. 2001; Sawaya et al. 2008; Palmuti et al. 2009; Prieto et al. 2012; Corrêa et al. 2016; Rivas et al. 2022). It feeds on fishes, amphibians, reptiles, and mammals; however, its main diet consists of anurans, including eggs and tadpoles (Pinto and Fernandes 2004; Prieto et al. 2012; Alencar and Nascimento 2014; Azarak and Farias 2017; Cabral et al. 2017; Andrade et al. 2020; Oliveira et al. 2021; Rivas et al. 2022), with leptodactylids accounting for about 30% of documented anuran prey (Corrêa et al. 2016).

In 1995, an adult female *E. poecilogyrus* (CIRA-947) from the Hernán Melgar Justiniano University Campus (14.813°S, 64.892°W; 157 m asl) was donated to the provi-



**Fig. 1.** Adult female Yellow Curichera (*Erythrolamprus poecilogyrus*) swallowing a Jumping Frog (*Leptodactylus macrosternum*). Photographs by Luis R. Rivas.

sional collection of snakes of the Centro de Investigación de Recursos Acuáticos of Santísima Trinidad City, Beni, Bolivia. The specimen (approx. 59.5 cm in total length) was collected while swallowing a Jumping Frog, *Leptodactylus macrosternum* (CIRA-947p) (Fig 1). Details about the capture of this snake are unknown, but after examining the material carefully we were unable to identify any signs that the specimen had been mistreated. Populations of *E. poecilogyrus* and *L. macrosternum* are common in the Trinidad region (Rivas et al. 2022) and on the Benian Floodplains (Eversole et al. 2021); therefore, predator-prey interactions between these two species are likely, and the relationship has been recorded in Argentina (Prieto et al. 2012), as has that of *E. poecilogyrus* and *L. latrans* in Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil (Corrêa et al. 2016). The most frequent amphibian prey of *E. poecilogyrus* registered by Prieto et al. (2012) in the wetlands of northern Argentina were bufonids, leptodactylids, and hylids in that order. The frequency of consumption of amphibians by *E. poecilogyrus* in the lowland habitats of Bolivia is unknown.

In Trinidad, *E. poecilogyrus* is known by the local population as the “Yellow Curichera,” because it is almost always associated with humid places or with water (curiche is synonymous with wetland in the Mojeño-Trinitario dialect). *Leptodactylus macrosternum* is referred to by the local people as the “Jumping Frog,” because when fleeing, this species jumps many times and covers considerable distances in each jump. *Erythrolamprus poecilogyrus* is abundant around the city of Trinidad and a considerable number of individuals in the area are killed by the local residents every year for a variety of reasons, including instinctive fear, false beliefs and myths, erroneous customs, and ignorance of its ecological importance to nature (Rivas et al. 2022).

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