



A Giant Spotted Gecko (*Hemidactylus maculatus* Duméril and Bibron 1936) Preying on *Cnemaspis* sp.

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The Giant Spotted Gecko (*Hemidactylus maculatus*) is a largely saxicolous lizard endemic to the northern Western Ghats of India (Agarwal et al. 2011). It is one of the largest nocturnal geckos (SVL to 122 mm) on the Indian Subcontinent (Sharma 2002). *Hemidactylus maculatus* has been known to prey on the Indian Violet Tarantula (*Chilobrachys fimbriatus*) (Nar et al. 2022), *Hemidactylus* cf. *brookii* (Patel et al. 2014), and the Lesser Bandicoot Rat (*Bandicota bengalensis*) (Karunarathna and Amarasinge 2011). However, to the best of our knowledge, this is the first record of *Hemidactylus maculatus* feeding on a gecko in the genus *Cnemaspis*.

At 2200 h on 10 February 2023, we encountered a *Hemidactylus maculatus* (SVL 60–70 mm) near the Kaas

Plateau, Satara District, Maharashtra, India (17.715147 N, 73.808407 E; elev. 1,203 m asl) holding a *Cnemaspis* sp. by the neck on a stone about 1.5 m above the ground (Fig. 1). The larger gecko chewed its prey until it ceased moving before it was ingested.

Acknowledgements

We thank the Global Earth Foundation and the Nature and Social Foundation for their valuable support and guidance. We are also grateful to the Maharashtra Forest Department and Deputy Conservator of Forest, Mahadev Mohite, and Range Forest Officer, Dr. Nivrutti Chavan. Abhijit Nale and Hrushikesh Awale helped with identification.

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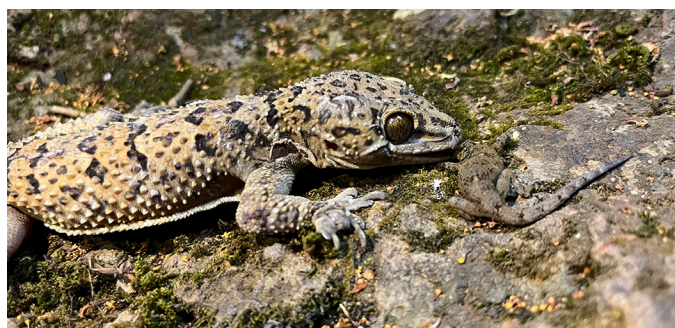


Figure 1. A Giant Spotted Gecko (*Hemidactylus maculatus*) feeding on a *Cnemaspis* sp. near the Kaas Plateau, Satara District, Maharashtra, India. Photograph by Kiran Ahire and Vikas Jagtap.