



Interspecific Communal Oviposition by a Colombian Lightbulb Lizard (*Riama columbiana*) and Eyelash Lizards (*Lepidoblepharis duolepis*) in Colombia

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Communal nesting in amphibians and reptiles is defined as the unintentional deposition of eggs under rocks or bark or in vegetation, holes in tree trunks, or cracks by two or more conspecifics (Espinoza and Lobo 1996; Doody et al. 2009). Few studies report interspecific communal oviposition (ICO) by lizards; in such instances, individuals of two or more species use the same oviposition site (Krysko et al. 2003; Alfonso et al. 2012; Estrada and Borroto-Paéz 2020).

At 1620 h on 21 November 2022, we identified an ICO site with six eggs in the Botanical Garden of the University of Caldas, Manizales, Colombia (5.05631, -75.49446; WGS 84; elev. 2,110 m asl). Four of the eggs were oval and placed in pairs; the other two eggs were noticeably larger and also

oval but more elongated (Fig. 1). These eggs had been deposited under leaf litter among the roots of a tree and covered with dirt. The two larger, more elongated eggs, with lengths of approximately 11 mm, correspond to a single laying event of a Colombian Lightbulb Lizard, *Riama columbiana* (Gymnophthalmidae) (Duarte-Marín et al. 2018), and a study of a congener has shown similarities in egg number and size (12.7 mm) (Méndez-Galeano and Pinto-Eraza 2018). The four smaller eggs laid in pairs probably were deposited by two Eyelash Lizards, *Lepidoblepharis duolepis* (Sphaerodactylidae). These eggs had diameters of ~0.9 mm, which corresponds to sizes of eggs in other species of *Lepidoblepharis* (Ayala and Serna 1986; Calderón-Espinoza and Medina-Rangel 2016). Lynch and Renjifo (2001) documented observations of *Riama* engaging in communal oviposition, but to the best of our knowledge, this is the first report of communal interspecific oviposition of a gymnophthalmid and a sphaerodactylid.

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Figure 1. Interspecific communal oviposition site (6 eggs) of a Colombian Lightbulb Lizard (*Riama columbiana*) (eggs 5 & 6) and an Eyelash Lizard (*Lepidoblepharis duolepis*) (eggs 1–4) under leaf litter and covered with dirt. Photograph by Pamela Patiño Salazar.

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