



Woodlice (Isopoda) in the Diet of a Turnip-tailed Lightbulb Lizard (*Riama cashcaensis*) (Squamata: Gymnophthalmidae)

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Turnip-tailed Lightbulb Lizards (*Riama cashcaensis*) are gymnophthalmids endemic to Ecuador, where they are known only from the provinces of Bolívar and Chimborazo (Galarza 2020; Arteaga, in press). This species is classified as Endangered (EN) on the IUCN Red List (Cisneros-Heredia et al. 2019). *Riama cashcaensis* is fossorial, often found in soil tunnels and under logs, rocks, and debris (Kizirian and Coloma 1991). When threatened, these lizards hide in cracks and, if captured, can detach their tails and will occasionally bite (Kizirian and Coloma 1991; Arteaga, in press). The diet is known to include Coleoptera, Hemiptera, Homoptera, Orthoptera, and occasional plant material (Kizirian and Coloma 1991).

At approximately 0930 h on 22 April 2023, on the agroecological farm of San Sebastian (Vinchoa Alto-Guaranda), Bolívar Province, Ecuador (-1.60645, -78.98080), a farmer accidentally ran over an adult *R. cashcaensis* (SVL = 12 cm,

weight = 45 g) (Fig. 1). When we examined its stomach contents, we found two woodlice (Crustacea: Isopoda) known locally as “cochinillas”; each measured approximately 6 mm. The lizard and the woodlice were preserved in 70% alcohol.

Although congeners are known to feed on isopods (e.g., Doan 2008), this is the first record of *Riama cashcaensis* feeding on woodlice. This observation increases our knowledge of the trophic niche and ecology of the species, the conservation of which is important due to its limited distribution.

Literature Cited

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Figure 1. A Turnip-tailed Lightbulb Lizard (*Riama cashcaensis*) from Bolivar, Ecuador, and two woodlice (Isopoda), known locally as “cochinillas,” that were in its stomach. Photograph by Andy Proaño.

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