



Predation Attempt by a Wandering Spider, *Ancylometes bogotensis* (Aranae: Ctenidae), on a Western Basilisk, *Basiliscus galeritus* (Squamata: Corytophanidae)

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The Western Basilisk (*Basiliscus galeritus* Duméril 1851) is a diurnally active lizard found in arboreal, terrestrial, and semi-aquatic environments (Vargas and Bolaños 1999; Paez et al. 2002; Castro-Herrera et al. 2012; Hernández-Córdoba et al. 2012). It is typically associated with bodies of water in forested (Paez et al. 2002; MECN 2010; Rios et al. 2011; Almendáriz and Brito 2012) or open areas (Hernández-Córdoba et al. 2012) but also can be found in intervening ecosystems (Vargas and Bolaños 1999). Adult males can reach total lengths exceeding 70 cm (MECN 2010; Rios et al. 2011; Castro-Herrera et al. 2012; Hernández-Córdoba et al. 2012), two-thirds of which is tail (MECN 2010; Almendáriz and Brito 2012; Castro-Herrera et al. 2012). Heads of males bear a well-defined semicircular crest, which is rudimentary in females and juveniles (Dunn 1944; Paez et al. 2002; MECN 2010; Ríos et al. 2011; Almendáriz and Brito 2012; Castro-Herrera et al. 2012; Hernández-Córdoba et al. 2012). The dorsum of adults is typically dark brown, green, or greenish-yellow hues, dark brown transverse bands are present on the back and tail, flanks are green, and the venter is yellow or pale green (Dunn 1944; Paez et al. 2002; MECN 2010; Castro-Herrera et al. 2012). This species is widely distributed in Central (Costa Rica and Panama) and northern South America (Colombia and Ecuador) (Dunn 1944; Paez et al. 2002; MECN 2010; Rios et al. 2011; Castro-Herrera et al. 2012; Hernández-Córdoba et al. 2012) at elevations below 1,500 m asl (Dunn 1944; MECN 2010; Castro-Herrera et al. 2012). Like other basilisks, *Basiliscus galeritus* can run on water (Dunn 1944; Vargas and Bolaños 1999; MECN 2010; Rios et al. 2011; Castro-Herrera et al. 2012) and sometimes submerge (Isaza et al. 2022). The few reports documenting predation involve a Caiman (*Caiman crocodilus*) (Castro-Herrera et al. 2013), a Neotropical Otter (*Lontra longicaudis*) (Mayor-Victoria and Botero-Botero 2010), and a Neotropical

Blunt-headed Treesnake (*Imantodes cenchoa*) (Gonzalez-Acosta et al. 2023), but we are unaware of any reports of predation by an invertebrate.

Wandering spiders of the genus *Ancylometes* are common in moist Neotropical forests and in riverine vegetation, living mostly on the ground, where they hide during the day in natural crevices and ambush prey at night (Höfer and Brescovit 2000; Bhukal et al. 2015). These spiders are known to prey on insects, other invertebrates (e.g., Lombardo et al. 2023), and small vertebrates, including fish, tadpoles, frogs, and lizards (Salcedo-Rivera et al. 2018; Reyes-Olivares et al. 2020; Warner et al. 2024). *Ancylometes bogotensis*, a large species with leg spans in females reaching 26 cm and those of males 21 cm, is distributed in Central and northern and western South America (Höfer and Brescovit 2000), where it occupies lowland habitats (0–1,500 m asl) (Salgado-Roa et al. 2021). In Colombia, this species has been recorded in 14 of the nation’s 32 departments (Hazzi et al. 2013). Vertebrate prey of these spiders is known to include anurans (White 2015; Auguste et al. 2018; Salcedo-Rivera et al. 2018) and a West African House Gecko (*Hemidactylus angulatus*) (Gómez-Martínez et al. 2020). Herein we report a predation attempt by *A. bogotensis* on a Western Basilisk (*Basiliscus galeritus*).

At approximately 1900 h on 4 April 2023, in the urban zone of the Municipality of Santa Rosa del Sur, Department of Bolivar, Colombia (7.96132, -74.04699; elev. 620 m asl), we were alerted by pronounced movement in the leaf litter. As we approached the source of the sound, we witnessed an adult female *A. bogotensis* attacking a juvenile Western Basilisk (Fig. 1). The spider had seized the lizard by its head. The lizard’s attempts to free itself from the spider were unsuccessful, and after about 40 sec, the lizard became inert. The spider subsequently abandoned its prey, presumably due to our presence. We then examined the lizard, which exhibited visible damage



Figure 1. A predation attempt by an adult female Wandering Spider (*Ancylometes bogotensis*) on a juvenile Western Basilisk (*Basiliscus galeritus*) in the Municipality of Santa Rosa del Sur, Department of Bolívar, Colombia (top); damage to the eye of the lizard sustained during the attack (bottom). Video accessible at: <https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.25329388.v1>. Photographs by José Santiago Pérez-Galvis.

to its eye almost certainly caused by the spider's chelicerae (Fig. 1). This is the first report of predation by an invertebrate on a corytophanid lizard.

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