REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS

# First Record of a Guwahati Bent-toed Gecko (*Cyrtodactylus guwahatiensis*) Preying on a Theraphosid Spider (*Lyrognathus* cf. *crotalus*) in Assam, India

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Bent-toed Geckos in the genus *Cyrtodactylus* are predominantly insectivorous, with known diets including coleopterans, isopods, larvae of various insect taxa, and other small arthropods, with studies on *C. kingsadai* and the closely related Thin-toed Gecko *Mediodactylus kotschyi*, which until recently had been considered congeneric, demonstrating broad dietary spectra indicative of opportunistic foraging behavior (Valakos and Vlachopanos 1987; Valakos and Polymeni 1990; Kane et al. 2022).

We herein report the first documented observation of a *Cyrtodactylus guwahatiensis* preying on a large theraphosid spider, tentatively identified as *Lyrognathus* cf. *crotalus*, at approximately 2000 h on 28 April 2025, during a nocturnal herpetofaunal survey conducted on the campus of the Assam State Zoo cum Botanical Garden (26.163747°, 91.788168°; elev. 140 m asl). An adult *C. guwahatiensis* was on a damp mud bank near a shallow burrow, holding the spider in its jaws (Fig. 1). In response to our presence, the gecko entered the burrow with its prey. The spider's size and defensive capabilities suggest that *C. guwahatiensis* is capable of subduing prey that is relatively large and potentially dangerous, further expanding the known trophic versatility of the species.

## Literature Cited

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**Figure 1.** A *Cyrtodactylus guwahatiensis* preying on a *Lyrognathus* cf. *crotalus* on the campus of Assam State Zoo cum Botanical Garden, Guwahati, Assam, India. Photograph by Arnab Deb.

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