

PHRYNOSOMA MODESTUM (Round-tailed Horned Lizard). **BLOOD-SQUIRTING.** *Phrynosoma modestum* was heretofore thought to be a member of a “non-blood-squirting” clade including *P. mcallii* and *P. platyrhinos* (Sherbrooke and Middendorf III. 2001. *Copeia* 2001:1114–1122). Here we report blood-squirting by *P. modestum*.

At 1530 h on 14 August 2009 we collected an adult male (50 mm SVL, 6.4 g) Round-tailed Horned Lizard (*Phrynosoma modestum*) ca. 7 km SE of Fowler in Otero County, southeastern Colorado, USA. When first captured, the specimen squirmed and ultimately wriggled out of DW’s hand. The animal darted several meters while evading capture, and was subsequently pinned to the ground with more pressure than normal to prevent a second escape. At this time the specimen squirted a small amount of blood (ca. 0.025 ml) from an ocular sinus of the right eye. Blood was also visible surrounding the right eye, which was still swollen and engorged a few moments following the blood-squirting event when photos were taken (Fig. 1A). While photographing this individual at close range (<1 m) following its release, DM noted rapid swelling and subsequent rapid dissipation of swelling of the upper and lower lids around the left eye (Fig. 1B–1D). It is presumed that the lizard was preparing to squirt blood again, this time from the other eye, but found it unnecessary.

Blood-squirting is thought to be primarily a defense against predation attempts by canids (Middendorf and Sherbrooke 1992. *Copeia* 1992:519–527); potential canid predators in the area include Coyotes (*Canis latrans*), Domestic Dog (*C. lupus familiaris*), and Swift Fox (*Vulpes velox*), but can also be elicited by human contact (Hodges 2004. *Southwest. Nat.* 49:267–270). To our knowledge this is the first substantiated incidence of *P. modestum* squirting blood (confirmed by W. Sherbrooke, pers. comm.). Field work was

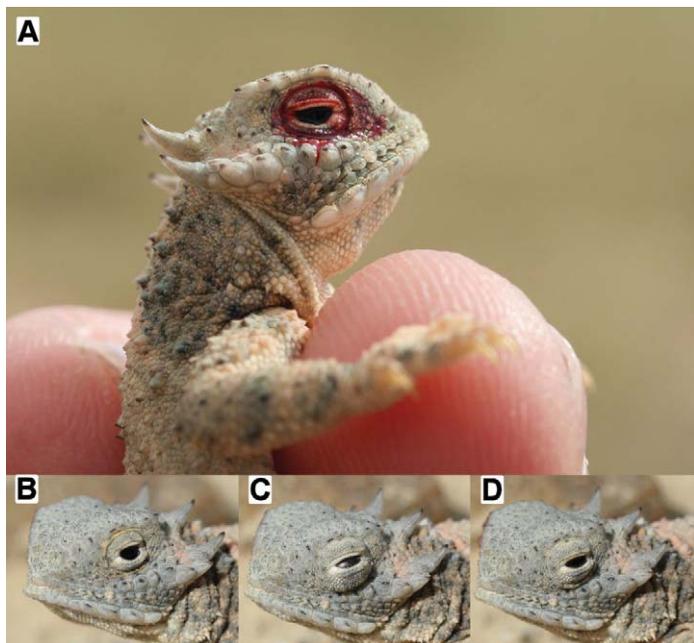


FIG. 1. A) Adult male *Phrynosoma modestum* after squirting blood from the ocular sinus of the right eye. B–D) The same individual after release at 15:43 h, apparently preparing to squirt blood from the left eye, demonstrating the lizard's eye before swelling (B, 15:44:55 h), during swelling (C, 15:45:07 h), and after dissipation of swelling (D, 15:45:10 h). Photographed in the field in Otero County, Colorado, 14 August 2009.

conducted under Colorado Division of Wildlife scientific collection license 09HP927 and with permission of the landowner.

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PLESTIODON FASCIATUS (Five-lined Skink). **PREDATION.**

Few reports document spider predation on small squamates, and most involve larger spiders, i.e. wolf spiders or orb weavers. Cokendolpher (1977. *J. Arachnol.* 5:184) observed an orb weaver (*Argiope aurantia*) eating a Broad-headed Skink (*Plestiodon laticeps*); Corey (1988. *J. Arachnol.* 16:392–393) observed a wolf spider (*Lycosa ammophila*) feeding on a Green Anole (*Anolis carolinensis*); and Hampton et al. (2004. *Herpetol. Rev.* 35:269–270) observed a wolf spider (*Hogna carolinensis*) feeding on a Ground Skink (*Scincella lateralis*). To our knowledge, no prior records exist of predation of lizards by cobweb spiders (Family Theridiidae), a family of spiders with relatively small body sizes (cephalothorax length range: 1–8 mm; Craig 1987. *Am. Nat.* 129:47–68). Here we provide an observation of predation by an American House Spider, *Achaearanea tepidariorum*, on a juvenile *Plestiodon fasciatus*.

At ca. 1000 h on 11 August 2006, we observed an *A. tepidariorum* with its fangs deployed in a juvenile (36.0 mm SVL) *P. fasciatus* inside a building at the Tennessee Aquarium Conservation Institute at Cohutta Springs, ca. 1.2 km S of Red Clay, Georgia (34.9739°N, 84.9503°W; datum: WGS84, elev. 259 m). The skink was near death and struggling listlessly. After photographing the scene, we preserved both the spider and the skink. The skink had lost a portion of its tail. As the spider appeared to be actively feeding on the skink at the time of capture, we discount the possibility that the spider was merely investigating a disturbance in its web.

Specimens are deposited in the California Academy of Sciences collections (*Plestiodon*, CAS 235426; *Achaearanea*, CASENT 9024310). We thank J. Miller and J. Vindum for confirming identifications and accessioning the specimens.

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PODARCIS MURALIS (Common Wall Lizard). **CONTROL.**

Podarcis muralis is a medium-sized European lizard that has been introduced into at least three states/provinces (Ohio, Kentucky, and British Columbia; Burke and Deichsel 2008. *In* Jung and Mitchell [eds.], *Urban Herpetology*, pp. 347–353. *Herpetol. Conserv.*, Vol. 3, SSAR). Walker and Deichsel (2005. *Herpetol. Rev.* 36:202) report