Thamnodynastes hypoconia (Cope, 1860), preys upon *Scinax fuscomarginatus* (Lutz, 1925)

Knowledge on feeding habits contributes to the understanding of a species' natural history as well as interactions and energy flux thought ecosystems (Falico et al. 2012; Linares et al. 2016). Amphibians play important roles in food chains of ecosystems in representing a link between terrestrial and aquatic environments (Machado et al. 2015). However, predation events on amphibians are only rarely observed in nature (Pombal 2007).

The frog genus *Scinax* Wagler, 1830, is composed of 71 species, 51 of which occur in Brazil (Frost 2017). *Scinax fuscomarginatus* (Lutz, 1925) inhabits open areas of the Pantanal and the Cerrado ecoregions (Brasileiro et al. 2005). Despite being widely distributed, records of predation upon it are scarce, as is the knowledge of its predators (Brandão & Garda 2000; Rolim et al. 2009).

Thamnodynastes hypoconia (Cope, 1860) is a small snake with semi-arboreal habits, frequently reported in flooded envi-

Fig. 1. A - Young *Thamnodynastes hypoconia* (Cope, 1860) (ZUFMS 2477; snout-vent-length 191 mm) devouring a small adult *Scinax fuscomarginatus* (Lutz, 1925) (ZUFMS 5626; SVL 22.9 mm); B - Stomach opened to identify the ingested anuran species.

ronments (Sawaya et al. 2008; Araujo et al. 2010). Its diet includes anurans, fishes and lizards (Marques et al. 2001; Sawaya et al. 2008; Araujo et al. 2010; Maffei et al. 2011; Moya & Maffei 2012). It is a predator to several species of hylid frogs (see Dorigo et al. 2014). The present note is the first that reports a predation event by *T. hypoconia* upon an individual of *S. fuscomarginatus*.

On May 15, 2017, at 20:40 h, during herpetological field work in the Reserva

Particular do Patrimônio Natural (RPPN) Fazenda Santa Fé, municipality of Campo Grande, Mato Grosso do Sul (20.5131 S, 54.7277 W, 500 m a.s.l), the authors observed a young *T. hypoconia* (snout-vent-length 191 mm) preying upon an adult *S. fuscomarginatus* (SVL 22.9 mm). The snake was detected in a swamp area, sitting on emergent herbaceous vegetation, about 50 cm above the water surface. The capture proper of the prey was not observed, the snake was about to swallow the treefrog (Fig. 1A). The end of the ingestion was waited for, the snake was caught, euthanased and analyzed in the laboratory for its stomach content (Fig. 1B). Both specimens collected (Collection Permit SISBIO 45889-1) are housed in the Coleção Zoológica da Universidade Federal de Mato Grosso do Sul (*T. hypoconia* ZUFMS-REP 2477; *S. fuscomarginatus* ZUFMS-AMP 5626).

Anurans are commonly preyed on by snakes because they are abundant in most of the habitats and the snake's risk of injuries by retaliation is low (Martins et al. 2002; Toledo et al. 2007). Besides, this predation event occurred at a typical calling site of *S. fuscomarginatus* (see Toledo & Haddad 2005), where and when males are probably particularly exposed to predation.

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AUTHORS: João Lucas Lago Canhete [1)], Matheus de Toledo Moroti [1)], Juan Fernando Cuestas Carrillo [2)], Karoline Ceron [2)] & Diego José Santana (Corresponding author < santanadiegojose@yahoo.com >) [1, 2)]

[1)] Mapinguari – Laboratório de Sistemática e Biogeografia de anfíbios e répteis, Instituto de Biociências, Universidade Federal de Mato Grosso do Sul, Cidade Universitária, CEP 79002-970, Campo Grande, Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil.

[2)] Programa de Pós-Graduação em Ecologia e Conservação, Instituto de Biociências, Universidade Federal de Mato Grosso do Sul, Cidade Universitária, CEP 79002-970, Campo Grande, Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil.