

LYSTROPHIS NATTERERI (NCN). **PREDATION.** *Lystrophys nattereri* is a small terrestrial xenodontini that occurs from central to southern Brazil (Hoge et al. 1975. Mem. Inst. Butantan. 39:37–50). We are unaware of any reports of predators of *L. nattereri*. We present an instance of predation on *L. nattereri* by the white-tailed hawk, *Buteo albicaudatus* (Aves: Accipitridae). The observation occurred on 19 October 2000 at 0605 h on an unpaved road crossing an area of pristine flooded grassland (22°13'30"S, 47°54'00"W, 715 m elev.) in Itirapina Ecological Station (IES), municipality of Itirapina, São Paulo State, southeastern Brazil.

When first seen from a car, the hawk was on the ground pecking a snake held by its claws. The approaching car drove the hawk away from its prey, an adult female *L. nattereri* (404 mm SVL, 57 mm tail length, mass 43 g; with four enlarged follicles). While the still-living snake was examined by us, the hawk hovered over the area. The snake had a scar throughout the frontal scale.

Snakes are not a rare prey item for the white-tailed hawk in Brazil (M. A. Granzinolli, unpubl. data). This hawk hunts vertebrates by standing flight or hovering at 20–30 m above ground and diving over prey (M. A. Granzinolli, unpubl. data; pers. obs.). The color pattern of *Lystrophys nattereri* is similar to that of the syntopic pitviper, *Bothrops itapetiningae*, suggesting the former is a mimic of the latter; indeed, the geographic distributions of both species in Brazil are largely coincident (see Hoge et al., *op. cit.*; Campbell and Lamar 1989. The Venomous Reptiles of Latin America, Comstock, Ithaca, New York. 425 pp.).

The snake is deposited in the Museu de História Natural, Universidade Estadual de Campinas (ZUEC 02472). D. Zanchetta and the staff of Instituto Florestal allowed and facilitated our fieldwork at IES, and M. A. Granzinolli provided unpublished data and discussed with us hawk feeding habits. This is the publication number 4 of the project Ecology of the Cerrados of Itirapina, funded by FAPESP.

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