

when captured, so the skewer was carefully removed and the exit wound treated with antibiotics. The extent of internal tissue damage could not be determined. We were not able to recapture this iguana or locate its carcass during fieldwork in 2017–2019, and we presume it did not survive.

This is not the first evidence of the danger of these skewers to lizards. Kebab sticks have been previously implicated in the death of a monitor lizard (*Varanus* sp.) at a barbecue site in the Northern Territory of Australia (Trembath and Freier 2005. *Herpetofauna* 35:48–49). Although the use of kebab skewers for feeding iguanas in the Exumas was done with good intentions, their small size, sharp end, and tendency to be dropped by some tourists has introduced just one more threat to the survival of this and other endangered species.

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**ELGARIA MULTICARINATA (Southern Alligator Lizard). PREDATION.** *Elgaria multicarinata* is a medium-sized anguillid lizard of western North America (Stebbins 2003. *Western Reptiles and Amphibians*. 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. Houghton Mifflin Company, New York, New York. 533 pp.). The species occupies a variety of habitats, but is generally found in or near moist areas, often around human habitations (Cowles 1937. *Science* 85:99–100; Fitch 1938. *Am. Midl. Nat.* 20:381–424; Stebbins 2003, *op. cit.*). As with other members of the genus, *E. multicarinata* feeds on a wide variety of insect prey, even taking small vertebrates and occasionally bird eggs (Fitch 1938, *op. cit.*; Cunningham 1956. *Herpetologica* 12:225–230; Nussbaum et al. 1983. *Amphibians and Reptiles of the Pacific Northwest*. University of Idaho Press, Moscow, Idaho. 332 pp.; Stebbins 2003, *op. cit.*). The species is even known to feed on highly venomous *Latrodectus hesperus* (Western Black Widow Spider) and their egg sacs (Cowles 1937, *op. cit.*; Cunningham 1956, *op. cit.*). At one point, it was even suggested that *E. multicarinata* could serve as a biological control for urban/suburban populations of *L. hesperus* in Southern California (Cowles 1937, *op. cit.*), although the importance of *L. hesperus* in their diet is still unknown.



FIG. 1. Young-of-year *Elgaria multicarinata* (Southern Alligator Lizard) ensnared in the web of an adult *Latrodectus hesperus* (Western Black Widow Spider) at a suburban residence in Yolo County, California, USA.

*Latrodectus hesperus* is a nearly ubiquitous, web-building, venomous, polyphagous spider found from Mexico to southern Canada, including the western United States (Salomon 2011. *J. Arachnol.* 39:154–160; Bradley 2012. *Common Spiders of North America*. University of California Press, Berkeley, California. 282 pp.). Although *Latrodectus* species have been shown to successfully capture and consume small vertebrates, the majority of their prey consists of insects (Salomon 2011, *op. cit.*; Bradley 2012, *op. cit.*). The vertebrates that have been reported as *Latrodectus* prey include *Christinus marmoratus* (Marbled Southern Gecko), *Uta stansburiana* (Common Side-blotched Lizard), and *Contia tenuis* (Common Sharp-tailed Snake; König 1987. *Herpetofauna* 9:6–8; Wilson 1991. *Ecol. Monogr.* 61:393–414; Beaman and Tucker 2014. *Herpetol. Rev.* 45:514), among others. Here, we document the novel predation of a small *E. multicarinata* by *L. hesperus*. This observation is noteworthy because it shows that the relationship between predator and prey in this system may be complex, warranting further investigation.

On 26 December 2018, at the entrance of a garage of a residence in West Sacramento, Yolo County, California, USA (38.55333°N, 121.52275°W; WGS 84; 9 m elev.), we discovered a young-of-year *E. multicarinata* (Museum of Natural History, University of Reno [UNR] 9867 [CRF 3374], 40 mm SVL) entrapped in the web of an adult female *L. hesperus* (Fig. 1). The rear of the lizard was encased in webbing ca. 30 cm off the ground, situated near several desiccated arthropods, and was in a state of desiccation that made it clear the *L. hesperus* had fed on the lizard. It is unknown whether this predation event by *L. hesperus* was active or opportunistic (i.e., whether the spider killed the lizard with venom, or simply waited for the lizard to perish in its web), though the location of the lizard, which was suspended in the web well off the ground, makes it unlikely that the lizard was accidentally entangled. Though *Latrodectus* venom possesses compounds that act specifically on vertebrate tissues and physiological systems (Grishin 1998. *Toxicon* 36:1693–1701), we know of only one confirmed case where *L. hesperus* actively captured and envenomated a small vertebrate (*U. stansburiana*; Wilson 1991, *op. cit.*). Regardless, these spiders may be more important predators of small vertebrates than is generally appreciated, and further investigation into the predator-prey interactions between *E. multicarinata* and *L. hesperus* is needed.

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**EUTROPIS BIBRONII (Seashore Skink). TAIL BIFURCATION.** *Eutropis bibronii* is distributed in the coastal belt and further inland of eastern India in Tamil Nadu and Southern Kerala provinces as well as in parts of coastal Sri Lanka (Uetz et al. [eds.] 2019. *The Reptile Database*. <http://www.reptile-database.org>; accessed 31 Mar 2019; De Silva et al. 2017. *Zootaxa* 4329:175–182; Chandramouli et al. 2012. *Salamandra* 48:241–242). Bifid tails are an abnormality resulting from incomplete caudectomy when the tail is partially broken and does not separate completely from the body, but enough damage has been caused such that a new tail growth begins (Gandla and Srinivasulu 2015. *Taprobanica* 7:263–265). Among Indian scincids, bifid tails have been documented in *E. carinata* and *E. allapalensis* (Brindley 1898. *J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc.* 11:680–689; Vyas 2016. *IRCF Reptiles & Amphibians* 23:108–109). On 2 February 2019, we came across