its way back to the rock from which the pair had first emerged, and disappeared underneath it. The struggle, from emergence to end, lasted just over 1.5 minutes (90 seconds), 68 seconds of which were recorded, and can be viewed online at: http://www.californiaherps.com/movies/pskiltonianusfightwacr517.mp4.

We remained in the vicinity for another 30 minutes. At 1115 h, the male, which had returned to the rock, stuck its head out from under the rock’s edge and sat, looking around, until we departed. The weather during this encounter was sunny and warm, with 10% high cloud cover and a light (2–3 kph) breeze from the south. The air temperature 2 cm above the soil surface ranged from 28 to 33°C, and the temperature under the rock from which the pair of P skiltonianus originally emerged was 17.6°C.

Although male combat has not been described for P skiltonianus, it is well known in other species of North American skinks, including P fasciatus and P laticeps (Fitch 1951. Herpetologica 7:77–80; Cooper and Vitt 1987. Oecologia 72:321–326; Griffith 1991. J. Herpetol. 25:24–30). In these species, the greatest frequency of male fighting occurred during the breeding season, commensurate with the onset of hormone-mediated seasonal sexual dimorphism which includes the development of red coloration on the heads of male skinks (Fitch 1954. Univ. Kansas Publ. 8:1–256; Cooper et al. 1987. J. Herpetol. 21:96–101). Like P fasciatus and P laticeps, P skiltonianus also exhibits seasonal dimorphism (Nussbaum et al., op.cit.). Additionally, as our observation was made during the breeding season of P skiltonianus in the Pacific Northwest (May), it seems likely that P skiltonianus exhibits a similar seasonal pattern with respect to combat. We hope to clarify this situation with further observation, and welcome other reports of this behavior.

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PLICA UMBRA OCHROCOLLARIS (Blue-lipped Tree Lizard). DEFENSIVE BEHAVIOR. Plica umbra ochrocollaris is a moderate-sized arboreal lizard distributed in the Amazonian region outside the Guianan area, in Venezuela, Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia, and Brazil south of Rio Amazonas/Solimões, and north of it in the area west of Rio Negro (Ávila-Pires 1995. Lizards of Brazilian Amazonia [Reptilia: Squamata]. Zoologische Verhandelingen, Leiden. 706 pp.; Ribeiro Jr. 2015 Zootaxa 3983:1–110). In these species, the greatest frequency of male fighting occurred during the breeding season, commensurate with the onset of hormone-mediated seasonal sexual dimorphism which includes the development of red coloration on the heads of male skinks (Fitch 1954. Univ. Kansas Publ. 8:1–256; Cooper et al. 1987. J. Herpetol. 21:96–101). Like P fasciatus and P laticeps, P skiltonianus also exhibits seasonal dimorphism (Nussbaum et al., op.cit.). Additionally, as our observation was made during the breeding season of P skiltonianus in the Pacific Northwest (May), it seems likely that P skiltonianus exhibits a similar seasonal pattern with respect to combat. We hope to clarify this situation with further observation, and welcome other reports of this behavior.

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At 2000 h on 17 May 2014, during a survey at Fatema Farm, near the Rio Branco, Acre state, northern Brazil (9.92527°S, 67.77599°W, WGS 84; 138 m elev.), I captured an adult male P umbra ochrocollaris that exhibited immobility and body expansion during handling (Fig 1). The behavior may have reflected death feigning, but the eyes remained open (Fig. 1). The immobility and body expansion continued even after the animal was released on the vegetation. Motionlessness is usually exhibited in response to predator detection and, combined with crypsis and body expansion might interrupt the sequence of attacks during the identification and approach phases, allowing the prey a chance to escape (Pianka and Vitt, op. cit.).


PODARCIS MELISELLENSIS (Dalmatian Wall Lizard). PREDATION. At 1457 h on 5 May 2017, one of us (BB) observed and photographed an adult Hooded Crow (Corvus cornix) successfully catching, and ultimately eating, an adult Podarcis melisellensis (Fig. 1). The act of predation took place at the harbor of Vis, a small Croatian island in the Adriatic Sea (43.0616°N, 16.1837°E; WGS 84). Neither the bird nor the lizard was collected, but their respective color patterns readily distinguished them from any related taxa recorded in the region (Kryšťufek and Klêtešek 2007. Folia Zool. 56:225–234; Kralj and BarišiĆ 2013. Nat. Croat. 22:375–396). This observation provides broader insight into the potential predatory threats for insular lacertid lizards.

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PODARCIS SICULA (Italian Wall Lizard or Ruin Lizard). REINTRODUCTION. Observations of Podarcis sicula in the New England region of the United States are currently restricted to a few established populations in New York and Connecticut (Gossweiler 1975. Copeia 1975:584–585; Donihue et al. 2015. Herpetol. Rev. 46:260–261). Ninety years ago, a number of P sicula (first misidentified as Lacerta melisellensis) were released in west Philadelphia (Kauffeld 1931. Copeia 1931:163–164). A few unpublished reports documented by herpetology enthusiasts indicate that P sicula might still be present; however, it is presumed extirpated from the region (Burke and Deichsel 2008. In Mitchell et al. [eds.], Urban Herpetology, pp. 347–353. Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles, University Heights, Ohio). Here, we report the reintroduction and reestablishment of P sicula in Bucks County, Pennsylvania (40.15184°N, 74.86740°W; WGS 84).
The population was first discovered on 1 June 2014, with recurrent sightings of several breeding pairs within a 0.16 km² range. After investigation by the Pennsylvania Amphibian and Reptile Survey (PARS), one individual in the neighborhood admitted to releasing the animals. Between 2014 and 2015, the PARS confirmed four separate observations of > 2 individuals in a residential area with one record of 3 males, 2 females, and a juvenile in a single backyard. Further confirmation of a breeding population was determined in June 2017, with a nest of ten eggs found in a mulched area. PARS is currently monitoring the population, and future research efforts are planned to determine the full extent of its newly established range.

Preferentially selecting certain urban environments in its native range, P. sicula is well-adapted to using structures with small crevices and holes as habitat structure provided by human developments. The Bucks County populations tend to select mulched, manicured properties, with one yard featuring a shallow 15-cm burrow. Other observations include basking in or near the vinyl siding of homes and waiting near ornamental plants (e.g., Lavandula sp., Narcissus sp., Iris sp.) for prey items (B. Vagnozzi, pers. obs.). This confirms the first reintroduction and reestablishment of a P. sicula population < 25 miles from the presumed original site of release in west Philadelphia.

The native range of P. sicula includes Bosnia, Croatia, France, Italy, Montenegro, Slovenia, and Switzerland, with introduced populations found in Spain, Turkey, and the United States (Crno-brijnja-Isailovic et al. 2009. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, accessed 28 June 2017). With little interspecific competition and minimal predation threats, the greatest threat is probably house cats (Felis domesticus), it is likely that the cosmopolitan nature of P. sicula will continue to drive its spread and surely will be magnified by accidental or intentional release (Burke and Ner 2005. Northeast. Nat. 12:349–360). Although not currently included, the invasive P. sicula will be listed on the official amphibian and reptile checklist provided by the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission.

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At 2100 h on 14 September 2015, in the municipality of Gámeza, department of Huila, Colombia (2.36930°N, 75.57161°W, WGS 84; 727 m elev.), we observed an adult C. lanatus eating an adult P. marmoratus in a tree, 5 m above ground. The opossum held the lizard by its head, from which it had already consumed a portion (Fig. 1). We did not witness the opossum ingest the lizard because we moved away to prevent further disturbing it. In this region of Colombia, Polyergus marmoratus is very abundant, suggesting that C. lanatus may frequently prey upon this lizard.

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PTYCHOGLOSSUS BICOLOR (Werner’s Large-scaled Lizard). PREDATION. Ptychoglossus bicolor is a small alloglossid lizard (SVL = ca. 45 mm) that inhabits the Magdalena Valley of Colombia, between 1500 and 2100 m elev., where it can be found in premontane and low montane humid forest (Harris 1994. Herpetol. Monogr. 8:226–275). This species has also been found in agroecosystems such as organic coffee plantations (Ramos-Pallares et al. 2010. South Am. J. Herpetol. 5:143–150). It is a semi-fossorial lizard, found beneath tree trunks, leaf litter, and rocks (Harris, op. cit.). Here we report an observation of predation on P. bicolor by a tarantula.

The predation event occurred at Finca Quiníní, located on the road La Vueltas, in the Hill of Quiníní, municipality of Tíbacre, Cundinamarca, Colombia (4.3342°N, 74.4983°W, WGS 84; 1804 m elev.). The vegetation consists of a high Andean secondary forest with agroecosystems of coffee and banana plantations and livestock farming. At 2057 h on 10 April 2017, a tarantula, Pamphobeteus ferox (Theraphosidae), was found eating a Ptychoglossus bicolor under a rock. The lizard was already being digested when we lifted the rock; the spider moved ca. 20 cm away at that time (Fig. 1). Pamphobeteus ferox is an endangered species that has a generalist diet and because of his body length (55–65 mm), is able to eat small vertebrates (Amat-García et al. 2007. Libro