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FIG. 1. Adult male Furcifer oustaleti carrying a bird in its jaws at Ampijoroa Forest Station.

birds. On 23 May 2000 at ca. 1600 h, one of us (GG) observed an adult male F. oustaleti at Ampijoroa Forest Station (16°20'S, 46°47'E, elev. ca. 70 m) on a shrub branch at ca. 2 m height. The lizard was carrying a dead bird in his mouth (possibly a young pudia madagascariensis) (Fig. 1). During the observations (ca. 30 min), the chameleon moved along the branch without leaving its prey, and finally swallowed it completely. The bird was not a hatchling (as recognizable by its well-developed feathers), and therefore almost certainly was not captured in a nest.

Submitted by GERARDO GARCIA, Durrell Institute of Con-servation and Ecology, University of Kent, Canterbury, Kent CT2 7NS, U.K. (e-mail: gerardo.garcia@wanadoo.fr), and MIGUEL VENCES, Laboratoire des Reptiles et Amphibiens, Museum Na-tional d'Histoire Naturelle, 25 rue Cuvier, 75005 Paris. France (e-mail: m.vences@t-online.de).

GECKOLEPIS MACULATA (Spotted Fishscale Gecko). PRE-DATION. Few cases of scorpions preying on lizards have been reported: Centruroides exilicauda preying on Phyllodactylus sp., Hadrurus arizonensis on Cnemidophorus sp., Parabuthus villosus on Palmatogecko rangei, and Opistophthcdmus carinatus on \ichydactylus capensis and Mabuya striata (McCormick and Polis i990. In Polis [ed.], The Biology of Scorpions. Stanford Univ. Press, Stanford, Claifornia. 587 pp.). The first two examples con-cern species from North America and the other two from South Africa. No data concerning scorpions preying on Malagasy liz-ards are available. On 14 March 2000 we observed a scorpion eating a subadult specimen of Geckolepis at Montagne des Francais, northern Madagascar (12°19'34"S, 49°20'09"E, 335 m elev.). The specimens were found during the day under a stone in degraded dry forest. The Geckolepis (SVL ca. 33 mm) had al-ready been partly consumed (tail, left hindleg, and part of diges-tive tract); it was preserved and deposited in the Zoologische Staatssammlung Munchen (ZSM 527/2000). Geckolepis system-atics are in need of revision; according to the meristic characters used for species diagnosis in the genus (Angel 1942, Les lezards de Madagascar, Mem. Acad. Malgache 36. 139 pp.), the specimen was determined as G. maculata. The scorpion was an adult male Grosphus flavopiceus with a total length of 85 mm, including the telson; it was deposited at the Museum national d'Histoire naturelle (MNHN-RS-8539). Grosphus flavopiceus is known from

Montagne des Frangais (Lourenco 1996, Scorpions [Chelicerata Scorpiones], Faune de Madagascar 87. 102 pp.); it lives almost exclusively in dry areas (Lourenco and Cloudsley-Thompson 1998, Biogeographica 74:183-187) and is an active predator of prey with rapid movements, similar to most scorpion species from deserts or dry areas.

Submitted by FRANK GLAW, Zoologische Staatssammlung, Miinchhausenstr. 21, 81247 Munchen, Germany (e-mail: Frank.Glaw@zsm.mwn.de), MIGUEL VENCES, Museum na-tional d'Histoire naturelle, Laboratoire de Zoologie (Reptiles et Amphibiens), 25 rue Cuvier, 75005 Paris, France, and WILSON R. LOURENCO, Museum national d'Histoire naturelle, Laboratoire de Zoologie (Arthropodes), 61 rue Buffon, 75005 Paris, France.

HELODERMA SUSPECTUM (Gila Monster). MORTALITY/PREDATION? Little is known about potential predators of the venomous Gila monster, but they are suspected to be few (Boger and Del Campo, 1956. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. 109:1-238). As part of a study of the activity of Gila monsters in the Sonoran

Desert near Phoenix, we observed the apparent outcome of a predation event involving a male Gila monster and a mammalian car-

nivore.

An adult male Gila monster, 250 mm SVL (294 g), was initially captured in northern Phoenix, Arizona, on 12 April 2000, surgi-cally implanted with a small radio-transmitter (12 g), and released (1600 m from its capture site) in typical Upland Sonoran Desert dominated by creosote bush, bursage, palo verde, and saguaro cac It was relocated once or twice a week over the next fifteen months, during which time it grew 19 mm in length and 26 g in mass. On 27 June 2001 we radio-tracked the male Gila monster, and located the exposed tag and the head and neck of the lizard. The tag wa exceptionally clean and exhibited small indentations consistent with the bite marks of a canid or similar-sized carnivore. The tag was imbedded in dry grasses over which an animal had apparently rolled repeatedly. Approximately 10 m from the tag the head and neck of the Gila monster were found with evidence that tissue had been "stripped" from the ribs and vertebral column. The lizard had been radio-tracked on 23 June 2001; at that time it was in a pack rat nest approximately 125 m from the subsequent location of the tag and head.
Although we have no direct evidence, we think that a coyote is the most likely candidate as the predator responsible for killing and consuming the Gila monster. Firstly, other carnivores (e.g.,

feral dogs, kit or grey foxes, skunks, badgers) have not been observed at the site, which is entirely surrounded by urbanization,
over the past two years; coyotes are commonly observed at the site. Secondly, the radio tag was exceptionally clean (as if mouthed repeatedly) and apparently "rolled on," behaviors commonly ex-hibited by canid predators. Lastly, given the short time that had elapsed since its previous location in a traditional refuge, it seems unlikely that the Gila monster died of some other cause and sub-
sequently was fed upon (as carrion) by a coyote.
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Submitted by BRIAN K. SULLIVAN, Department of Life Sci-
ences, Arizona State University West, PO Box 37100, Phoenix,

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