
NATURAL HISTORY NOTES

UROMACERINA RICARDINII (Vine Snake). **PREDATION AND PREY.** Vine snakes display morphological features related to arboreal habits, including a very slender body and long tail (Henderson and Bider 1980. Milwaukee Publ. Mus. Contr. Biol. Geol. 37:1–38). All vine snakes are primarily arboreal and feed mainly on lizards (Henderson and Bider, *op. cit.*). *Uromacerina ricardinii* is a cryptically colored vine snake that occurs mainly in the Atlantic Forest in southeastern Brazil (Cunha and Nascimento 1982. Bol. Mus. Par. Emilio Goeldi, n.s. Zool. 113:1–9). Amaral (1978. Serpentes do Brasil. Melhoramentos/Univ. São Paulo. Brazil, 246 pp.) mentions that *U. ricardinii* is arboreal and preys on lizards. Here, I report the gut contents of the three specimens housed in the collection of the Instituto Butantan (IB), and an observation of predation on this snake.

An adult female (IB 42061, 40.5 mm SVL, 33 mm tail length) contained one semi-digested treefrog (*Hyla* sp.). Another female (IB 34412, 435 mm SVL, 360 mm tail length) contained the legs of a hylid treefrog. A third snake (IB 45178, 315 mm SVL, 305 mm tail length) had insect remains in its hindgut, possible due to secondary ingestion. One adult male (IB 25120, 420 mm SVL, 325 mm tail length) collected by W. Grantsau was found in the stomach of a mantled hawk (*Leucopternis polionota*). This forest hawk is reported to feed on arthropods and small snakes (Sick 1984. Ornitologia Brasileira, vol I, Editora UNB, Brasil, 481 pp.). The data here do not support the assertion of Amaral (*op. cit.*) that this snake is a lizard specialist. At the very least, *U. ricardinii* also regularly preys on hylids. Additionally, despite its camouflage, *U. ricardinii* at least occasionally falls prey to forest hawks.

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