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Grass mice (*Akodon* sp.): an unrecorded prey for the dipsadid snake *Taeniophallus affinis*

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The dipsadid snake *Taeniophallus affinis* is endemic to the Brazilian Atlantic Forest (Di-Bernardo and Lema, 1988; Argôlo, 1998; Condez, Sawaya and Dixo, 2009; Paula, Zanella and Guaragni, 2011). Ecological data on this species is scarce, but published information on diet indicates that this snake feed upon anurans and lizards (Sazima, Chini and Souza, 1992; Souza and Cruz, 2000; Marques, Eterovic and Sazima, 2004; Palmuti, Cassimiro and Bertoluci, 2009; Zacariotti and Gomes, 2010). However, Barbo and Marques (2003) found an individual of *Amphisbaena mertensi* (Amphisbaenidae) in the gut of a specimen collected in nature; necrophagy is unlikely due to the absence of necrophagous insect larvae in this gut content. Here we report for the first time a mammal prey for this snake.

An adult female *T. affinis* (SVL = 550 mm, tail = 145 mm, weight = 50g) collected in the municipality of Rio Negro (Paraná state, Brazil) and housed in the collection of the Museu de História Natural Capão da Imbuia (MHNCI 11330), contained the remains of a mammal prey in its gut. Hairs found in the snake gut content were prepared according to Quadros and Monteiro-Filho (2006) and identified throughout cuticular and medullar patterns comparisons with reference collections and identification keys (Cavia et al., 2008; Martin, Gheler-Costa and Verdade, 2009). Based on the lanceolate shape of cuticular scales in the proximal portion and the biseriate medulla, the hairs were identified as being from a small rodent of the genus *Akodon* (Cricetidae, Sigmodontinae).

Three species of *Akodon* occur in the area of Rio Negro: *A. montensis* (adult mean CC = 107 mm, weight = 47 g), *A. paranaensis* (adult mean CC = 109 mm, weight = 32 g), and *A. serrensis* (adult mean CC = 97 mm, weight = 26 g) (see Bonvicino, Oliveira and D'Andrea, 2008). Small mammals may be an unusual prey to species in the genus *Taeniophallus* because these snakes have small and slender bodies. However, juveniles of *Akodon* weigh around 10 g (KGF, pers. obs.). Thus prey/predator mass ratio for this snake may attain about 0.2, probably the maximum limit for this snake based on information for related species (CAG, pers. obs.).

Taeniophallus affinis seems to forage actively through leaf litter (Di-Bernardo, 1992), searching mainly for frogs and lizards. However, this snake eventually finds in this place other vertebrates as small mammals or amphisbaenids which are not discarded, but rather eaten.

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