

Many vertebrate species are known to use mangrove ecosystems (Rog et al. 2017. Divers. Distrib. 23:221–230). Neill (1958. Bull. Mar. Sci. 8:1–97) documented 273 reptile species known to use saltwater habitats, but despite a focus on Florida, his only comment about *Diadophis punctatus* was that it has been found in salt marshes in California. Usually, *D. punctatus* are found in mesic areas in woodlands, pine flatwoods, hammocks, and around the edges of streams, prairies, wet meadows, and marshes, including salt marshes (Myers 1965. Bull. Florida State Mus. 10:43–90). They are occasionally found in water hyacinth mats (Carr 1940. Univ. Florida Publ. Biol. Sci. Ser. 3:1–118) or under the bark of stumps or logs standing or laying in freshwater ponds, but are not generally considered to be aquatic.

At 1015 h on 26 April 2021, one of us (ES) found an adult *D. punctatus* (ca. 20 cm in total length) swimming in open water in a ca. 5 m wide tidal creek bordered and canopied by Red Mangrove (*Rhizophora mangle*) flowing into an arm of Johnson Bay in the Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Collier County, Florida, USA (25.99144°N, 81.71438°E; WGS 84). The cloud cover was minimal and the temperature was ca. 28°C. The tide was coming in, about midway from low to high. The *D. punctatus* was photographed and released at the site of capture.

Although there are several records of *D. punctatus* from inhabited areas in the vicinity of the Rookery Bay Reserve (e.g., Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida [UF] 78685 and iNaturalist 40307579 from Marco Island, California Academy of Sciences [CAS] 184351 from Hammock Bay Golf Club, and iNaturalist 73327823 from Shell Island Road), none are from mangrove microhabitat.

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DIPSAS MIKANII (Brazilian White-collared Slug Eater). AMELANISM. Chromatic anomalies are not unusual for snakes, and over 100 cases have been reported for 47 species in the Neotropics alone, most frequently in colubrids (Borteiro et al. 2021. Salamandra 57:124–138). Several mutations may affect melanogenesis (Bechtel and Bechtel 1981. J. Herpetol. 15:397–402), resulting in individuals with different phenotypes that have been classified using, equivocally, terms such as albino, partial albino, albinistic, albinoid, and albinotic (Borteiro et al. 2021, *op. cit.*). True albinism, however, is a hereditary recessive condition (Prüst 1984. Litteratura Serpentina 4:6–15). Albino snakes present total absence of pigment (either due to inactivity of melanocytes or of all four kinds of chromatophores), bearing red eyes, reddish or rosy tongue, and white or rose colored skin (Bechtel 1991.

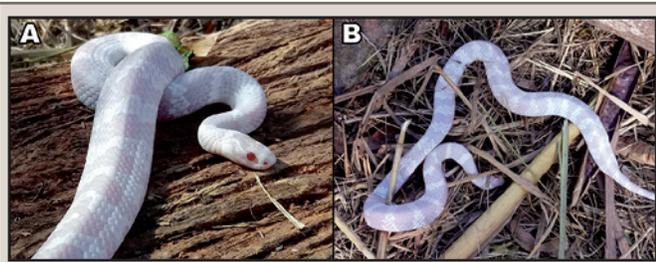


FIG. 1. Amelanistic *Dipsas mikanii* from Itupeva, Brazil showing the red eye (A) and the body pattern (B).

Int. J. Dermatol. 30:243–246; Lopes et al. 2019. Herpetol. Notes 12:335–336). This condition is classified as amelanism (Borteiro et al. 2021, *op. cit.*).

The tribe Dipsadini comprises 77 species (Arteaga et al. 2018. ZooKeys 766:76–147) and amelanism has been reported for three of them, namely *Dipsas neuwiedii* (Lopes et al. *op. cit.*; Sazima and Di-Bernardo 1991. Mem Inst Butantan 53:167–173), *D. turgida* (Amaral 1927. Rev. Mus. Paul. 15:61–62), and *Sibon n. nebulata* (Rutherford and Murphy 2013. J. Trinidad Tobago Field Nat. 2013:61). Herein, we report the first case of amelanism in *D. mikanii*. This species occurs in Argentina, Paraguay and Brazil, occupying open grasslands and savannas, and also disturbed urban areas (Nogueira et al. 2019. J. Herpetol. 14:1–274). It is a slug-eating, terrestrial, oviparous, and nocturnal species (Marques et al. 2019. Serpentes da Mata Atlântica - Guia ilustrado para as florestas costeiras do Brasil. Ponto A, Cotia. 319 pp.). At 0845 h on 22 April 2021, an amelanistic *D. mikanii* was found when two workers were distributing dry grass from a pile in an agroforestry area in Itupeva, Brazil (23.0544°S, 47.0667°W; WGS 84). It was apparently an adult female (as observable by its tail), with a total length of ca. 50 cm, and had white and rose colored skin, and red eyes (Fig. 1). After being photographed, it was released in a forested area nearby.

It has been hypothesized that albinism is more common in nocturnal, fossorial or somewhat more defensive species, given that such an anomaly would make the snake much more evident to visual predators during the day (Sazima and Di-Bernardo 1991, *op. cit.*). However, such an association between lifestyles and occurrence of chromatic aberrancies was not found in a recent compilation (Borteiro et al. 2021, *op. cit.*). The authors mention that pooling more observations is necessary for better understanding this scenario. Therefore, our observation represents a contribution for chromatic anomalies studies on snakes.

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DRYMARCHON CORAIS (Yellow-Tailed Creebo). DIET and OPHIOPHAGY. *Drymarchon corais* is an active and diurnal colubrid that is both a terrestrial and an arboreal forager (Duellman 2005. Cusco Amazónico. Comstock Publishing Associates, Ithaca, New York. 472 pp.; Bernarde and Abe 2006. South Am. J. Herpetol. 1:102–113). The species has a wide distribution through Central and South America, and limited studies indicate that it has a generalist diet (Cunha and Nascimento 1993. Boletim do Museu Paraense Emílio Goeldi 9:1–191; Bernarde and Abe 2010. Biota Neotropica 10:167–173). Snakes, including venomous species, accounted for 15.63% of the prey items of *D. corais* sampled during a study in Amazonia, Brazil (da Costa Prudente et al. 2014. Herpetol. Notes 7:99–108). Here, we provide two additional ophidian prey items for *D. corais* and a description of the events observed near the Las Piedras River, Madre de Dios, Peru, at elevations between 150 and 250 m.

At 0900 h on 29 April 2018, we found an adult *D. corais* (ca.