

BOTHROPS ASPER (Terciopelo). **DIET/OPHIOPHAGY.** The diet of young *Bothrops asper* consists of anurans, lizards, and arthropods, while adults feed primarily on small mammals, such as rodents and opossums (Savage 2002. *The Amphibians and Reptiles of Costa Rica: A Herpetofauna between Two Continents, between Two Seas.* University of Chicago Press, Chicago, Illinois. 934 pp.). Sasa et al. (2009. *Toxicon* 54: 904–922) provide a detailed analysis of the euryphagous diet of this species, adding birds and snakes. To date, known snake prey of *B. asper* include *Erythrolamprus bizona*, *Ninia sebae*, *Ninia atrata*, and cases of cannibalism in juveniles (Buttenhoff and Vogt 1995. *Herpetol. Rev.* 26:146–147). Mendoza-Roldan and Lucero (2011 *Herpetotropicos* 5:107–109) further register a juvenile *B. asper* preying on a neonate *Porthidium lansbergii* in the dry forest of northern Colombia. Herein, we report two other species of snakes in the diet of *B. asper*.

On 22 April 2020, at 1430 h, in the Isthmian Pacific moist forest region of San Josecito, Uvita, Puntarenas, San José Province, Costa Rica (9.2253°N, 83.7312°W; WGS 84; 391 m elev.), a dead *B. asper* was found in a stream. While clearing away the decomposing snake (ca. 92 cm total length [TL]) with a snake hook, the venter ripped and an ingested snake was observed. After a closer look and a few photographs, the ingested snake was identified as *Tantilla supracincta*. The relatively well-preserved *T. supracincta* (ca. 36 cm TL) was removed (Fig. 1) and stored in alcohol.



Fig. 1. Subadult female of *Bothrops asper* and ingested *Tantilla supracincta* from Costa Rica. PHOTO BY BRONISLAVA GABRYSOVA



Fig. 2. *Bothrops asper* feeding on *Dipsas andiana* in Ecuador. PHOTO BY JAVIER AZNAR GONZÁLEZ DE RUEDA

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At 2230 h on 20 March 2017, JAGR was called to a case of *B. asper* (ca. 70–80 cm TL) feeding on *Dipsas andiana* (Fig. 2) during a heavy rain at **Reserva forestal “El Jardín de los Sueños”, La Maná, Cotopaxi, Ecuador** (0.8379°S, 79.2055°W; WGS 84). The snake was on the trail in an open area bordered by fruit tree plantation and secondary forest. Though rarely seen and difficult to be observed given their frequent nocturnal activity, ophiophagy by *B. asper* may be more common than previously recognized.

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