

Predation on *Leptodactylus spixi* (Anura: Leptodactylidae) by *Echinanthera undulata* (Squamata: Dipsadidae)

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The genus *Echinanthera* Cope, 1894 occurs in South America (Di-Bernardo, 1992) and comprises six Brazilian species (Bérnils, 2010). According to Rocha et al. (2004) four of them are reported to occur within the state of Rio de Janeiro: *Echinanthera amoena* (Jan, 1863), *E. cephalostriata* Di-Bernardo, 1996, *E. melanostigma* (Wagler, 1824), and *E. undulata* (Wied-Neuwied, 1824). *Echinanthera undulata* is an inhabitant of the Atlantic Forest leaf-litter, occurring in southern and southeastern Brazil, from south-central Rio de Janeiro and southern Minas Gerais states to the northeast of the state of Santa Catarina (Di-Bernardo, 1992).

In spite of the scarce literature about *E. undulata* diet,

species of *Echinanthera* are known to prey upon several ectotherms, such as small lizards (Marques, Eterovic and Sazima, 2001; Pontes and Rocha, 2008), snakes (Balestrin and Di-Bernardo, 2005), and anurans, both adults and eggs (Marques, Eterovic and Sazima, 2001; Moura-Leite, et al., 2003; Pontes and Rocha, 2008).

Recently we examined one adult female *Echinanthera undulata* (MNRJ 1866; Figure 1) which is housed at the reptile collection of Museu Nacional, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (MNRJ). The specimen has a snout-vent length of 553.0 mm and jaw width 31.9 mm and was collected in the neighborhood of Cidade das Meninas, municipality of Duque de Caxias (22°47'12.57"S, 43°18'47.18"W), state of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. In its stomach we found one adult specimen of *Leptodactylus spixi* Heyer, 1983 (Figure 2; SVL 41.2 mm).

Leptodactylus spixi is a small terrestrial frog that inhabits the leaf-litter of the Atlantic Rainforest of southeastern and northeastern Brazil (Izecksohn and Carvalho-e-Silva, 2001). The species is included

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Figure 1. The examined specimen of *Echinanthera undulata* (MNRJ 1866). Dorsal view (A); Ventral view (B). Scale = 2 cm.



Figure 1. Adult specimen of *Leptodactylus spixi* found in the stomach of *E. undulata* (Both specimens on voucher MNRJ 1866). Ventral view (A); Dorsal view (B); Lateral view of the head (C). Scale = 1 cm.

within the *Leptodactylus fuscus* group, which currently comprises 29 species (Giaretta and Costa, 2007, Caramaschi, Feio and São-Pedro, 2008, Ponssa, 2008). *Leptodactylus spixi* was diagnosed by the presence of two longitudinal dorsal skinfolds and a blackish streak on the upper lip that highlights the white border of its lip (Izecksohn and Carvalho-e-Silva, 2001). This is the first record of predation on *Leptodactylus spixi* by *Echinanthera undulata*.

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