

Predation on the introduced frog *Eleutherodactylus johnstonei* by the arboreal boid *Corallus grenadensis*

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Although predation on frogs by nocturnal arboreal colubroid snakes is common (Sajdak, 2010), it is rare among members of the arboreal boid genus *Corallus*. Of 271 prey items recorded in the diets of all nine species of *Corallus* combined (Henderson and Pauers, 2012), only two frogs were recorded and both (a Hylidae sp. and one unidentified) were taken by the geographically widespread *C. hortulanus* (Pizzatto et al., 2009). Here we describe predation on an eleutherodactylid frog by *C. grenadensis* on Grenada.

We observed young-of-the-year *Corallus grenadensis* (Barbour) in the process of swallowing *Eleutherodactylus johnstonei* (Barbour) on two occasions. The first occurred at Annandale Falls (St. George Parish) at 1930 h, late in 2011. The boa was at 1.5 m on an unidentified, broad-leafed palm. The second observation occurred at Grenville (St. Andrew Parish) on 10 February 2012 at 2000 h in a light rain. The boa was at 2.0 m in a bush on a roadside embankment and it was in the process of swallowing the *E. johnstonei* headfirst.

Corallus grenadensis is the most abundant and widespread snake species on Grenada and its diet is comprised largely of lizards (primarily the superabundant and ubiquitous *Anolis aeneus* and *A. richardii*) and introduced rodents (Henderson, 2002). *Eleutherodactylus johnstonei* was supposedly introduced onto Grenada from Barbados (where also introduced) around 1885 (Barbour, 1914). It is, like the two species of *Anolis*, superabundant and ubiquitous on the island. Of the four anuran species on the island, only one is native (the strabomantid *Pristimantis euphronides*) and it occurs at elevations and in habitat where *C.*

grenadensis is either rare or absent. Therefore, anurans as food for *C. grenadensis* are a recent addition to its potential prey base. Considering that their abundance on Grenada rivals that of *Anolis* spp., it is, on the one hand, somewhat surprising that *E. johnstonei* has not previously been recorded in the diet of juvenile *C. grenadensis*. On the other hand, nocturnally quiescent anoles might provide a more suitable prey target for an active foraging snake than nocturnally active and alert frogs.

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