

## COMMENTS ON A WOLF SPIDER FEEDING ON A GREEN ANOLE LIZARD

Reports of terrestrial, araneomorph spiders feeding on vertebrates are infrequent. Cokendolpher (1977. J. Arachnol., 5:184) observed a female *Argiope aurantia* Lucas eating a *Eumeces laticeps* Schneider (broad-headed skink). The present note is the first report of a wolf spider feeding on a green anole.

On 19 February 1988 at 0700 hours, I observed a male *Lycosa ammophila* Wallace feeding on an *Anolis carolinensis carolinensis* Voight (family Iguanidae). The predation occurred in a sandhill community at Wekiwa Springs State Park, Wekiwa Springs, Orange County, Florida. Dominant trees in the sandhill community are longleaf pine, *Pinus palustris* Mill., and Turkey oak, *Quercus laevis* Walt. The understory is dominated by wiregrass, *Aristida stricata* Michx., and saw palmetto, *Serenoa repens* (Bartr.) Small.

*A. carolinensis carolinensis* is an abundant lizard in this region of the south, found on trees, shrubs, vines, or the ground. The attack on the anole was not observed. The spider may have encountered the anole at night while it was asleep.

I found the spider and anole after opening the back of a Sherman small mammal trap. It is not known if the spider cornered the lizard in the trap or dragged the lizard into the trap after catching it. The anole measured 3.9 cm (snout-vent length) and was found in the chelicerae of the spider.

The anole received two bites which penetrated the body. The first was immediately behind the hind limbs and the second bite was immediately behind the right fore limb. The wolf spider's jaws were located in the second bite area when first observed. The spider dropped the anole, dropped off the door of the trap and disappeared in the litter. A search of the litter failed to produce the spider.

Identification of the spider is based on (1) size, (2) coloration, and (3) the fact the site has been sampled for 18 months with *L. ammophila* being the only large wolf spider of that size and coloration collected. *Lycosa ammophila* is a large spider belonging to the *lenta* group (Wallace, 1942. American Mus. Nov. No. 1185:1-21). It appears that *L. ammophila* is large enough to handle a medium sized anole without any harm coming to itself.

This work was supported by Nongame Wildlife Program contract no. RFP-86-003 from the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

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