

ITAPOTIHYLA LANGSDORFFII (ocellated tree frog): **ANURAN PREDATION ATTEMPT.** Amphibians are essentially predators, being mostly generalists and opportunists. The items of their diet are determined by available prey and its size, which are limited by the predator's mouth and body size (Caramaschi, 1981). Anurans tend to target elongated prey such as crickets and insect larvae (Schad, 2007). Hylids attempting to predate other frogs are less commonly observed (Toledo et al., 2007). This note describes one such event.

The ocellated treefrog *Itapotihyla langsdorffii* Duméril & Bibron, 1841 is a widely distributed hylid habiting the Atlantic Rainforest from the state of Sergipe to the state of Rio Grande do Sul. The species also occurs in eastern Paraguay and north-western Argentina (Frost, 2011) and is nocturnally active in arboreal microhabitats (Haddad et al., 2008). *Scinax x-signatus* Spix, 1824 is widely distributed through South America in Colombia, Guyana, Suriname and Venezuela. In Brazil it occurs in the north-east, south-east and southern regions where it inhabits tropical savannas, forest edges and open areas, and riparian zones (Rodrigues et al., 2004).

On May 4th, 2011, a distress call of a *S. cf. x-signatus* drew our attention to a *I. langsdorffii* attempting to predate a *S. cf. x-signatus* in the Reserva Sapiranga (12°56'813" S, 38°01'398" W). Both frogs were on a shrub located above a pond. The *I. langsdorffii* had the legs of the *S. cf. x-signatus* in its mouth and was holding it with both front feet. The *S. cf. x-signatus* continued performing the distress call and was struggling to break free as the predator tried to swallow it by the legs. Eventually, the *S. cf. x-signatus* managed to free itself and escaped (Fig. 1). This is the first record of attempted predation on *S. x-signatus* by this species.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We thank the logistic support offered by Centro de Ecologia e Conservação Animal, Herpetofauna Foundation, Reptile Technologies and Lacerta Ambiental.



Figure 1. Sequence of events during predation attempt. (A) The moment of sight of the event, (B) *I. langsdorffii* trying to swallow its prey, (C) *S. cf. x-signatus* attempting to escape. Photograph by M.L.T. de Oliveira.

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