

TRACHEMYS DORBIGNI (Brazilian slider turtle): PREY. The distribution of *Trachemys dorbigni* (Duméril & Bibron, 1835) is restricted to South America, occurring in Brazil, Uruguay, and Argentina (Fritz & Havas, 2007) where it occupies reservoirs, rivers, ponds, and wetlands (Quintela & Loebmann, 2009). This species is the most abundant freshwater turtle to the state of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. Its distribution has been extended to other Brazilian states, probably due to the illegal trafficking of wild animals (Bujes & Verrastro, 2007; Quintela & Loebmann, 2009). The species has been described as an opportunistic omnivore by Hahn (2005).

During the necropsy of an adult female of *T. dorbigni*, whilst searching for helminths, a specimen of *Erythrolamprus poecilogyrus* (Wied-Neuwied, 1825) (Serpentes: Dipsadidae) (Fig. 1) was found in the small intestine. The chelonian was collected in February 2011, in a channel in the urban area in the municipality of Pelotas (31°46'16.9" and 52°18'45.9"), state of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, under license (N°23196-1) of Instituto Chico Mendes de Conservação da Biodiversidade (ICMBio). The snake was fixed at 5% formalin and preserved in 70°GL alcohol.

Most information about the diet of *T. dorbigni* come from studies and reports conducted *dorbigni*. *E. poecilogyrus* is found in Brazil,

in the state of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. For example, Pereira (1998) found insects, weeds, seeds, algae, leaves, bone fragments, and scales in sample of feces from free-living *T. dorbigni*. Hahn (2005) based on the stomach contents of 75 turtles in southern Rio Grande do Sul State reported that 85.27% of the diet was plant matter (macrophytes, filamentous algae, and plant waste) with animal matter (molluscs, crustaceans, arthropods, leeches, and vertebrates) forming 13.23% of total volume. The vertebrates in the diet of Hahn's (2005) sample consisted of anurans from two turtles and Characiformes in a single individual. Bujes et al. (2007) recorded *T. dorbigni* preying on the golden mussel, *Limnoperna fortunei* (Dunker, 1857), a bivalve mollusc originating from Southeast Asia that was introduced in the state of Rio Grande do Sul in the 1970s (Mansur et al., 2003). Bujes et al. (2007) also analyzed the fecal content of eight specimens and recorded the presence of gastropods, crustaceans, plant matter, sand, and synthetic materials.

Snakes have only been previously recorded as food in captive turtles (Lema & Ferreira, 1990) although these authors did not indicate which species. This note is the first reported predation on *E. poecilogyrus* by *Trachemys*. The snake *E. poecilogyrus* is found in Brazil, Uruguay, and Argentina where it inhabits fields,



Figure 1. *Erythrolamprus poecilogyrus* collected in the small intestine of *Trachemys dorbigni* in the state of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil.

dunes, woods, marshes, margins of ponds, channels, and some other aquatic environments (Quintela & Loebmann, 2009).

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