

An exotic species of earthworm preyed by *Craugastor rhodopis* (Anura: Craugastoridae) in Mexico

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The anuran *Craugastor rhodopis* is endemic to Mexico, and is listed as vulnerable by the IUCN (2012). Its distribution is restricted to western Veracruz and the adjacent states of Hidalgo and Puebla, Mexico between 1200 and 2100 m a.s.l. However, there is an apparently separate population in central and southeastern Chiapas (and adjacent Oaxaca) (Lynch and Santos-Barrera, 2004). Despite being a relatively common species within its distribution range, little is known about its natural history, particularly about its diet.

In a recent study on the diversity and conservation of amphibians in central Veracruz, a female *Craugastor rhodopis* was observed eating an earthworm in a cloud forest fragment near the La Cortadura reserve in the municipality of Coatepec, Veracruz (19° 29' 32.0" N, 97° 01' 44.5" W, elevation 1944 m a.s.l.). The observation was made on June 7, 2012 at 0111 h on a hillside, close to a stream when the atmospheric temperature was 13.20 °C and relative humidity was 95.9%. Both organisms were captured and the predation was interrupted. Lately the frog and earthworm were transported to the laboratory. The frog was identified according to the diagnostic characters proposed by Streicher (2012), weighed 6.2 g, and had a snout-vent length of 38.9 mm (SVL). The *C. rhodopis* specimen was deposited in the personal collection of Eduardo Pineda Arredondo (CEPA-985). The earthworm weighed 1.1 g (one-sixth the weight of the frog) was 94.3 mm long, and was identified as *Amyntas corticis*, an exotic species native to Asia (Fig. 1) according to the diagnosis proposed by Blakemore (2003). The specimen

was deposited in the collection of Oligochaeta of the Instituto de Ecología, A. C. (IEOL- catalog number in process). This finding represents the first record of prey consumed by *C. rhodopis*, documenting a predator-prey interaction for a native amphibian with an alien species in a relatively preserved habitat, and enhances the existing records of anurans with earthworms in their diet, including *Hyla japonica* (Hirai and Matsui, 2000), *Lithobates catesbeianus* (Carpenter et al., 2002), *Leptodactylus latrans* (Solé et al., 2009), *Limnonectes leporinus* (Inger, 2009) *Fejervarya limnocharis* (Kumar et al., 2010), *Charadrahyla sp.* (Canseco-Márquez and Gutiérrez-Mayén, 2010), *Hypopachus pictiventris* (Lieberman, 1986), *Lithodytes lineatus* and *Leptodactylus leptodactyloides* (Parmelee, 1999).

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Figure 1. Adult female *Craugastor rhodopsis* eating an exotic species of earthworm (*Amyntas corticis*) in La Cortadura, municipality of Coatepec, Veracruz, Mexico.

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