

Between July and November of 2013, I collected 25 females of *L. etheridgei* in the buffer zone of Salinas and Aguada Blanca National Reserve, southern Peru (16.3833°S, 71.3166°W). Dissections were performed to determine the reproductive mode of *L. etheridgei*. Moreover, snout–vent length (SVL) and axilla–groin distance (AGD) were measured to test the hypothesis that in viviparous *Liolaemus* the AGD/SVL ratio is  $> 0.5$ . This is contrary to oviparous species which have a ratio of  $< 0.5$  (Cei et al. 2003. *J. Zool. Syst. Evol. Res.* 41:152–156).

The dissections confirmed a lack of eggshells and instead revealed developed embryos (Fig. 1), confirming viviparity as the reproductive mode in *L. etheridgei*. Moreover, only 32% of the sample followed Cei's condition. The mean of the AGD/SVL ratio was 0.48, however the confidence intervals (95%) include values above and below 0.5 (upper IC: 0.56 and lower IC: 0.4). Therefore, AGD/SVL ratio might not be a reliable metric by which to determine the reproductive mode in *L. etheridgei*, and possibly other species.

The outcomes of this study uphold the idea that *L. etheridgei* is a viviparous species despite not following the AGD/SVL condition. Such findings add one more viviparous species to *Liolaemus*, a condition that is shared by over half of the species of this genus (Schulte et al. 2000. *Biol. J. Linn. Soc.* 69:75–102).

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**MEROLES ANCHIETAE (Shovel-snouted Lizard). DIET.** Faunal inhabitants of the hyper-arid Namib Sand Sea rely on opportunistically exploiting irregular pulses of food and water. Average annual rainfall at the Gobabeb Research and Training Centre (GRTC), the site of the observation below, is 25 mm/yr, typically occurring during summer months (December–May), but years with  $< 15$  mm of rainfall are not uncommon (Eckardt et al. 2013. *J. Arid Environ.* 93:7–19). *Meroles anchietae* is a highly psammophilus, diurnal lizard that is endemic to the dune fields of the Namib desert and feeds on a variety of seeds and arthropods. Due to resource scarcity it is thought that *M. anchietae* feeds opportunistically, with seeds forming the bulk of their diet when insect abundances are low, but indiscriminately feeding on arthropods when available (Robinson 1987. *J. Arid Environ.* 13:279–286). Herein I report an observation of a *M. anchietae* feeding on termites.

On 6 June 2016, an unusual coastal storm delivered more than 18 mm of rain to the GRTC and surrounding areas. My observation occurred two days later on High dune, 2.8 km SW of the GRTC (23.58076°S, 15.02033°E, WGS 84; 451 m elev.). On 8 June 2016 between 1100 h and 1400 h, I observed at least six *M. anchietae* (Fig. 1A) feeding on termite alates (winged termites) at a single location in a windblown depression at the base of a sand dune. Five-minute focal observations of individuals revealed *M. anchietae* gorging themselves on alates at a rate of 1.8 insects consumed per minute (95% CI:  $\pm 0.8$ ). There were two species of termite undergoing nuptial flights and searching for nesting sites: *Hodotermes mossambicus* and *Psammotermes allocerus*. In all observed interactions, *M. anchietae* consumed *H. mossambicus* (Fig. 1B) but rejected *P. allocerus* (Fig. 1C). I typically observed *H. mossambicus* in tandem pairs, having already shed their wings (as pictured in Fig. 1B) and when encountered by *M. anchietae*, both individuals were consumed. In all observed interactions, when a winged termite was caught, *M. anchietae* flicked it against the sand until its wings were removed. If the

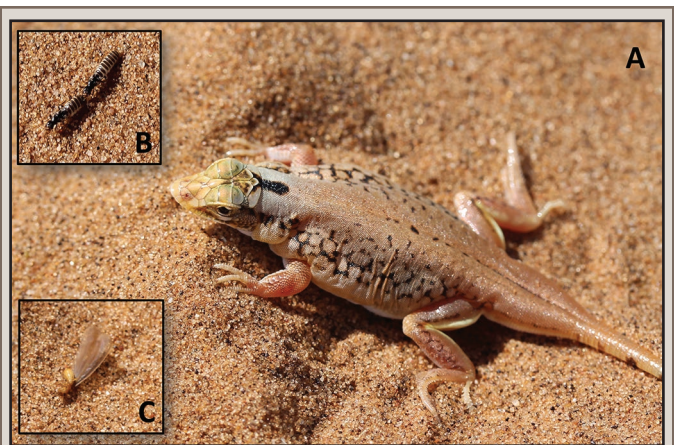


FIG. 1. *Meroles anchietae* with a distended abdomen (A). The observations included gorging on *Hodotermes mossambicus* termite alates (B) but discarding *Psammotermes allocerus* (C).

termite was *H. mossambicus* it would then be consumed, but spit out if *P. allocerus*. I also observed two cases where *M. anchietae* bit and spit out plant matter. I observed a single *M. anchietae* that would bury in sand between feeding events, leaving its head exposed and actively searching for prey. The foraging lizards were uncharacteristically oblivious to my presence or the presence of each other despite several foraging in close proximity. This is the first observation to my knowledge of *M. anchietae* preferentially feeding on *H. mossambicus* when arthropod prey was abundant following a rain event. This is also the highest recorded rate of feeding activity of *M. anchietae*.

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**NAMAZONURUS PUSTULATUS (Herero Nama Lizard). SCALE COUNTS.** *Namazonorus pustulatus*, a Namibian endemic first described by Wilhelm Peters (1862), has been the subject of few studies, and what is known of its morphology is derived from compilations of scattered expeditions/reviews (Metheun and Hewitt 1913. *Annals Transvaal Mus.* 4:118–145; Loveridge 1944. *Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool.* 95:1–118; Mertens 1955. *Die Amphibien und Reptilien Südwestafrikas. Aus den Ergebnissen einer im Jahre 1952 ausgeführten Reise. Abhandlungen der Senckenbergischen Naturforschenden Gesellschaft.* 490:1–172), museum specimens (Boulenger 1885. *Catalogue of the Lizards of the British Museum Volume 2.* Taylor and Francis, London. 497 pp.), and guides (FitzSimons 1943. *Transvaal Mus. Mem.* 1:1–528; Branch 1998. *Field Guide to the Snakes and Other Reptiles of Southern Africa.* Ralph Curtis Publishing, Sanibel Island, Florida. 399 pp.; Reissig 2014. *Girdled Lizards and Their Relatives: Natural History, Captive Care and Breeding.* Edition Chimaira, Frankfurt am Main. 249 pp.). Although important, these works are not comprehensive with respect to *N. pustulatus*, can be difficult to obtain, lack specificity on the number of individuals examined or may rely on the same museum specimens. Herein we characterize the morphology of *N. pustulatus* by providing comprehensive scale counts.

Scale counts were conducted from high resolution images from wild caught individuals (November 2014–June 2015) as part of a larger effort to study *N. pustulatus* in the Khomas Hochland