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Predation of *Norops fuscoauratus* (Duméril and Bibron, 1837) by *Kentropyx calcarata* (Spix, 1825) in a remnant of Atlantic Forest, Brazil

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Kentropyx calcarata (Spix, 1825) is a teiid lizard that inhabits neotropical forests (Vitt, 1991). In Brazil, this species presents a disjoint distribution, occurring both in Amazon and Atlantic Forest, which are found in Brazil's north and northeastern faunal regions, respectively. In addition, it also can be found in some forested ecotones between the *cerrado* habitats of central Brazil and the Amazon forests (Gallagher et al., 1986). Like most teiids, it is a diurnal active forager that feeds mostly on arthropods, such as spiders, crickets, and grasshoppers. *Kentropyx calcarata* is frequently found in areas with direct sunlight, such as forest edges and clearings, where it forages on the litter surface and climbs fallen trunks or the stems of low vegetation (Vitt, 1991).

Norops fuscoauratus (Duméril and Bibron, 1837) is a widely distributed anoline lizard that occurs in the Amazon (Avila-Pires, 1995) as well as in Atlantic Forest from northeastern to southeastern Brazil, where its distribution may not be completely known yet (Goyannes-Araújo et al., 2009). This species is usually found on trunks, branches, and limbs of trees (Vitt et al., 2003), being more common on vegetation up to 2 m (Avila-Pires, 1995). However, Duellman (1978) reported animals sleeping on bushes or grasses less than 1 m above ground during the night. Logs, vines, twigs, and the forest litter are also used by *N. fuscoauratus*, but infrequently (Vitt et al. 2003).

Herein, we report a predation event involving these two sympatric species of lizards in a remnant of Atlantic Forest. The event involved the consumption of a juvenile *Norops fuscoauratus* by an adult female *Kentropyx calcarata* (Coleção Herpetológica da Universidade Federal da Paraíba specimen number 15978). The female *K. calcarata* was captured during an active search in September 2016 in an Atlantic Forest remnant (RPPN Gargaú, coordinates 34.9569ºW, 7.0122ºS) in Paraíba State, Brazil. After euthanasia, we analyzed the stomach contents of the specimen, and we were able to identify one orthopteran, one aranean, two mantodeans, and one juvenile *Norops fuscoauratus* (Fig. 1).

Measurements of the *K. calcarata* specimen included a SVL of 94.4 mm, body width (at its broadest point) of 27.9 mm, body height of 17.4 mm, and head length and height of 12.5 and 22.8 mm, respectively. The *N. fuscoauratus* had an SVL of 33.4 mm, body width of 3.9

Figure 1. Juvenile *Norops fuscoauratus* found in the stomach of a female *Kentropyx calcarata*. Photo by Priscilla A.C. de Assis.

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mm, body height of 3.6 mm, and head length and height of 9.6 and 4.0 mm, respectively.

Norops fuscoauratus is the most commonly found species of this genus in the sampled area, and it is found mostly on vines and low vegetation (Vitt et al., 2003). We therefore believe that it would likely have been captured by the *K. calcarata* on an elevated perch. The climbing habit of *K. calcarata*, generally a rare behaviour among teiids, was also observed in populations from the Amazon (Vitt, 1991) and in a mangrove area in northeastern Brazil (Roberto et al., 2012).

Predation by sympatric lizard species could be a relevant cause of mortality in *Norops* (e.g., Siqueira and Rocha, 2008), which may influence the dynamics of interspecies competition and life history characteristics of several sympatric species (e.g., Polis and Myers, 1985; Gerber and Echternacht, 2000). Our record verifies that *Kentropyx calcarata* can be a predator of *Norops fuscoauratus,* therefore expanding our knowledge of the ecology of both species.

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