

developmental stage strongly indicates nest attendance.

The eggs measured ca. 5 mm in diameter and were yellowish-cream below. We used a staging table for development of embryos in *E. coqui* (Townsend and Stewart 1985, Copeia 1985:423–436) in order to estimate developmental stage of embryos. Although this staging table is specific to *E. coqui*, we believe it may be useful to provide a rough estimate of developmental stage in *E. noblei*. We estimated that the eggs were at Stage 5–6 of 15 stages: the embryos had evident front and hind limbs, conspicuous eyes, and were observed moving within the eggs.

We collected four eggs from the clutch and placed them in a plastic container filled with leaf litter in the laboratory to observe development. We monitored the remaining eggs in the field periodically, but never saw the female at the nest site again, possibly because of our disturbance of the nest site. The remaining eggs in the field were depredated between 4–7 May. One of the four eggs in the laboratory began to mold by 13 May and was removed; the remaining three eggs hatched on 22 May. Only one hatchling was measured (9.1 mm SVL). Given the advanced developmental stage in which the eggs were found, development time for this species must be considerably longer than 19 days.

While there is considerable variation in the sex of the parent providing parental care throughout this genus, nest attendance by the female is typical for the subgenus *Craugastor* (Townsend 1996. In Powell and Henderson [eds.], Contributions to West Indian Herpetology, a Tribute to Albert Schwartz, pp. 229–239. SSAR Contrib. Herpetol. Vol. 12. Ithaca, New York, 457 pp.). The data provided herein for *E. noblei* suggest that reproduction in the *gollmeri* species group may be similar to other species within the subgenus *Craugastor*.

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HYLA VERSICOLOR (Gray Treefrog). **BEHAVIOR.** The Chinese tallowtree, *Triadica sebifera* (Euphorbiaceae), is an introduced noxious weed (USDA, NRCS. 2002. The PLANTS database, ver. 3.5 [http:plants.usda.gov]; National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, Louisiana) that has become extremely common in disturbed habitats and along the banks of waterways in Louisiana. It is a deciduous tree that reaches > 10 m in height, and often contains tree-holes that are produced as the branches rot. The branches are very porous, and dead branches are apparently particularly vulnerable to fungi and insects. Herein I describe the use of these cavities and aggregate behavior in *Hyla versicolor*, neither of which has been previously reported to my knowledge.

On 25 January 1998 (1400 h), while removing a Chinese tallowtree (75 cm diam at breast height [DBH]), I discovered three *H. versicolor* within a tree-hole cavity (ca. 10 cc) in a 15 cm diam branch. The branch was 3 m above the ground before the tree was felled. The tree was located 5 km W of Hammond, Louisiana (Tangipahoa Parish). The temperature was 13°C, weather was overcast with a 10 km/h north wind, and all frogs were apparently in good condition, nestled on top of one another in the bottom of

the cavity.

In a similar situation involving tree removal on 10 January 2002 (1100 h, weather clear, wind calm, temp. 16°C), 2 km E of Ville Platte, Louisiana (Evangeline Parish), I discovered four *H. versicolor* in a tree-hole cavity in the trunk of a Chinese tallowtree (85 cm diam DBH), 2.5 m above the ground. In this case, the frogs began emerging from the cavity once the tree was felled, and were also apparently in good condition.

These observations are significant as they document the use of an introduced tree species as microhabitat, as well as aggregate (potentially overwintering) behavior in *H. versicolor*. These tree-hole cavities may represent an introduced resource to treefrogs (and other cavity dwelling species), as tree-hole cavities may be generally limited in abundance, and shelter defense is widespread in anurans (Duellman and Trueb 1986. Biology of Amphibians. Johns Hopkins Univ. Press).

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LEPTODACTYLUS FALLAX (Mountain Chicken). **OPHIOPHAGY.** *Leptodactylus fallax* is one of the world's largest frog species. Adults commonly reach 190 mm SVL and often weigh in excess of 600 g. They are now found only on the West Indian islands of Dominica and Montserrat, though are believed to have occurred on Martinique, St. Kitts, Nevis, Antigua, and St. Lucia.

On 27 Aug 2001 at 2129 h during a population assessment of the mountain chicken in the Centre Hills of Montserrat, an adult female mountain chicken (175 mm SVL, 510 g) was caught consuming a Montserrat black racer *Alsophis antillensis manselli* (female; 650 mm TL, 75 g).

The frog was sitting, partially concealed in leaf litter, to one side of a trail through the forest. Dangling from its mouth was ca. 150 mm of snake tail. Upon capture, the frog immediately started to regurgitate its dead prey. The 500 mm of snake which had been inside the frog had presumably been there for some time, as the frog's digestive juices had reduced it to little more than a skeleton. The posterior portion not ingested remained largely intact, though it had started to decompose.

From what is known of the feeding behavior of *L. fallax* observed in captivity (pers. obs.), it is unlikely the racer was eaten dead. Most likely the frog pounced on movement in the leaf litter, seized the head of the snake and then started to ingest it. The stomach of the frog was unable to accommodate the entire length of the animal—hence the protruding tail. It is possible that the frog would have succeeded in ingesting the remaining portion of the snake, once the anterior part had been sufficiently digested.

There is one earlier report of *L. fallax* eating a snake. Brooks (1982. Biotropica 14:301–309), in his analysis of prey consumed by mountain chickens in Dominica, found a specimen that had eaten a blind snake, *Typhlops dominicana*. Unfortunately the size of the prey item was not recorded, although *T. dominicana* do not exceed 385 mm TL (Schwartz and Henderson 1991. Amphibians and Reptiles of the West Indies. University of Florida Press, Gainesville). It is likely that other voracious anurans (e.g., *Ceratophrys ornata*, *Discodeles guppyi*, and *Rana catesbiana*) are regular predators of large prey, including snakes (Duellman and