come from gut contents. Field observations of egg predation by *H. suspectum* are rare and here I provide a report of a juvenile *H. suspectum* actively consuming lizard/snake eggs in the wild.

On the morning of 8 August 2024, at 0912 h, I encountered a juvenile *H. suspectum* (175 mm SVL) foraging in a sandy wash in Antelope Pass in southwestern New Mexico, USA (exact location withheld). When I approached the lizard, it had its head in a hole while it was digging (Fig. 1A), but once it noticed me it retreated from the small depression and produced a defensive display by opening its mouth and hissing. I quickly backed away and observed the *H. suspectum* from ca. 2 m away. After 2 min, the lizard began to tongue flick around the depression (Fig. 1B) and began digging again, this time in the opposite direction (south) that it was originally digging in (north). After 1 min, it stopped digging and then began extensively excavating the soil in a new spot facing east. After 5 min, the lizard ceased digging to the east, exited the depression, and walked in a semicircle around the depression tongue flicking the ground about once a second. After completing the semicircle, which took ca. 1 min, the lizard re-entered the depression and continued to excavate the soil to the east. After 20 s, the lizard turned around and started to excavate the soil where it was initially digging (north), then after 4 min of digging it exited the depression and once again tongue flicked the ground while encircling the excavated area (Fig. 1B). It then re-entered the depression and continued excavating the soil for another 5 min until it appeared to break through a buried chamber where it continued digging on the apron of the burrow it uncovered. Shortly after more digging, I noticed a small white object in the burrow that appeared to be an egg, which the *H. suspectum* quickly swallowed. Although my view was partially obscured by a rock, it appeared the lizard ate at least three more eggs based on the repeated head and mouth movements made when it ate the first egg. After consuming the eggs, the *H. suspectum* tongue flicked outside the entrance of the burrow before leaving the excavated area at 0942 h, at least 30 min after it started digging. I captured the lizard after it fed, and while taking measurements I palpated the ventral surface and felt at least three eggs I estimate were ca. 1.5 cm in length. The excavated nest was ca. 10 cm deep and the total excavated area was ca. 39 × 27 cm.

To my knowledge this is the first field observation of a juvenile *H. suspectum* successfully foraging reptile eggs, albeit an unidentifiable species, although reptile eggs have previously been reported in their diet based on examination of gut contents (Beck 2005, *op. cit.*). While buried lizard eggs may be difficult to find, juvenile *H. suspectum* appear capable of finding them with their well-developed sensory system (Cooper 1989. Ethology 81:250–258) which was evident as I watched this lizard systematically dig and search for this nest for almost 30 min.

The *H. suspectum* was captured under a New Mexico Department of Game and Fish scientific collection permit (#NM3914).

ANTHONY J. PAWLICKI, Pawlicki Environmental Consulting LLC, 1303 N Virginia Street, Silver City, New Mexico 88061, USA; e-mail: anthonypawlicki12@gmail.com.

***HEMIDACTYLUS TURCICUS* (Mediterranean Gecko). MELANISM.** *Hemidactylus turcicus* is a nocturnal gecko native to regions surrounding the Mediterranean Sea, including southern Europe, northern Africa, and the western Middle East (Speybroeck et al. 2016. Field Guide to the Amphibians and Reptiles of Britain and Europe. Bloomsbury Publishing, London, UK. 432 pp.); however it has also been introduced to the Canary Islands, parts of the Gulf of Mexico, and across the United States (Kraus 2009. Alien Reptiles and Amphibians: A Scientific Compendium and Analysis. Springer Verlag, Berlin. 563 pp.). The typical dorsal coloration of *H. turcicus* is light gray, brown, or pinkish with near-white tubercles, contrasted by darker mottling that extends from the nostrils to the eye and upper ear along the dorsal side (Speybroeck et al. 2016, *op. cit.*). Here, we present an observation of melanistic *H. turcicus* from Greece.

On the night of 4 June 2023, we captured a juvenile *H. turcicus* on a stone wall in the center of the village of Chalki on Naxos Island, Greece (37.0646°N, 25.4847°W; WGS 84; 290 m elev.) exhibiting a notably darker, melanistic coloration than usual (Fig. 1). Despite the atypical pigmentation, the typical patterning remained discernible. We kept the individual in the lab for one day for measurements, and the dark coloration persisted the entire time from capture to release. In *H. turcicus*, previous observations have indicated that the species can adjust its coloration to better match its backgrounds (Zaidan and Wiebusch 2007. Texas J. Sci. 59:127–136), however, since this lizard maintained its dark coloration while we housed it for more than 24 h, we believe this is a case of a melanistic individual, the first to our knowledge in this species.

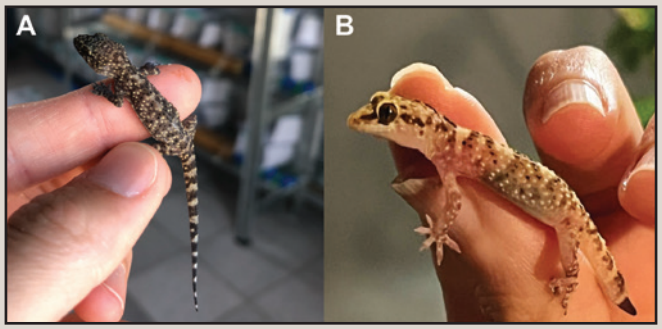

FIG. 1. The melanistic *Hemidactylus turcicus* (A) next to typically colored individual (B). Both lizards were caught off of walls in urban town centers on the island of Naxos, Greece.

RORY MENDELOW, Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, San Diego State University, 5500 Campanile Drive, San Diego, California 92182, USA (e-mail: rorymendelow@gmail.com); **SAVANNAH J. WEAVER**, Department of Biology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 120 South Road, Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27599, USA (e-mail: savannahjweaver@gmail.com); **KINSEY M. BROCK**, Department of Biology, San Diego State University, 5500 Campanile Dr., San Diego, California 92182, USA (e-mail: kmbrock@sdsu.edu).

***LIOLAEMUS CUYANUS*. COPULATION BEHAVIOR.** *Liolaemus cuyanus* is a robust lizard with psammophilous habits, widely distributed in central-western Argentina and endemic to the phytogeographic province of the Monte (Cei 1993. Reptiles del Noroeste, Nordeste y Este de la Argentina. Herpetofauna de Las Selvas Subtropicales, Puna y Pampas. Mus. Reg. Sc. Nat. Torino. Monografia XIV. 949 pp.). This species is oviparous and exhibits sexual dimorphism (Laspiur and Acosta 2007. Rev. Peru. Biol. 14:47–50) and the reproductive cycle has been described in adult males, showing a seasonal cycle with reproductive activity beginning in spring and concluding in late summer (Barauna et al. 2023. Theriogenology Wild 2:100019). However, no published reports exist on the copulation behavior or its