The genus *Tropidodryas* Fitzinger, 1843 comprises two species of semi-arboreal snakes [*T. serra* (Schlegel, 1837) and *T. striaticeps* (Cope, 1870)] endemic to the Brazilian Atlantic Rainforest biome and widely distributed throughout eastern Brazil (Argôlo, 1999a,b; Guedes and Marques, 2011). In spite of their wide distribution, little is known about the ecology and biology of these two species, including their food habits. Published information on the diets of these species is scarce and much of it is anecdotal. For example, Amaral (1978) mentions that *T. serra* (as *Philodryas serra*) and *T. striaticeps* (as *Philodryas pseudoserra* Amaral, 1938) feed on lizards, frogs and small birds, without giving more details. Marques, Eterovic and Sazima (2001) depicted both species as feeding on small mammals and lizards as adults and on frogs and lizards as juveniles. Two publications give data on food habits obtained from actual observations and/or gut content analysis: Sazima and Puorto (1993) recorded lizards and frogs (in juveniles) and rodents and bird feathers (in adults) in the guts of *T. striaticeps* and lizards (in juveniles) and rodents and a lizard (in adults) in the guts of *T. serra*; Marques and Sazima (2004) mentioned records of rodents (for adults) and lizards (for juveniles) as preys of *T. serra* in the state of São Paulo.

On 19 January 2012, during the morning, a large adult *T. serra* was seen raiding a nest of rufous-tailed jacamars (*Galbula ruficauda* Cuvier, 1816) at the Reserva Rio das Pedras (ReRP – 22°59′27″S, 44°06′00″W; ca. 50 m a.s.l.), in the municipality of Mangaratiba, state of Rio de Janeiro, southeastern Brazil. The event was witnessed by an employee of the reserve, who promptly caught the snake. As he removed the reptile from the nest, which was located in a hole in a cliff, he found that it was wrapped around one jacamar fledgling. Two adult jacamars, likely the parents of the fledgling, stayed by the nest observing the proceedings. Upon examination, the fledgling was found to be already dead and was later given to the reptile, which consumed it. The snake (adult male, snout-vent length = 930 mm; tail length = 235 mm) (Fig. 1) was handed over to one of us (DBG) and kept alive in a terrarium until 19 June 2012, when it was sacrificed and fixed. It is currently deposited in the reptile collection of the Universidade Federal do Estado do Rio de Janeiro (UNIRIO 53).

To our knowledge, the observation above represents the first non-anecdotal report of *T. serra* preying on a bird and the first for the genus *Tropidodryas* in which the bird was identified and the predation event actually seen. According to the employee of the reserve who caught the snake, as well as the personal observations of two of us (DBG and AMPTCS), the rufous-tailed jacamar is a relatively common bird in the ReRP (Fig. 2). It is possible that predation on this bird species (particularly nestlings and fledglings) by *T. serra* in this area, as well as predation on birds in general by *Tropidodryas* spp. may not be uncommon, with the lack of records being probably a consequence of the general lack of ecological data on these snakes.

**Acknowledgments.** We thank Fabiano Silva Gomes of the Reserva Rio das Pedras for having brought this predation event to our knowledge and for having collected the snake and handing it over to us. We also thank Jorge Antônio L. Pontes for reviewing the manuscript.

**References**


**Figure 1.** Adult male *Tropidodryas serra* (UNIRIO 53) from the Reserva Rio das Pedras, state of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Photo: Daniel B. de Góes

**Figure 2.** A rufous-tailed jacamar (*Galbula ruficauda*) at the Reserva Rio das Pedras. Photo: Daniel B. de Góes