

Predation on a Neotropical treefrog (*Scinax* aff. *fuscovarius*) by *Guira guira* (Aves, Cuculidae) in the state of Goiás, Central Brazil

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Guira Cuckoo [*Guira guira* (Gmelin 1788)] is a member of the family Cuculidae with a wide distribution, being found in Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Paraguay and Uruguay (Del Hoyo et al., 1997). This species has been commonly found in anthropogenic areas, such as farmlands and pastures (Sick, 1997; Vasconcelos et al., 2007). The diet of this species is composed mainly by arthropods (Schubart et al., 1965). However, other food items can also be ingested (Soave et al., 2008), such as anurans (Kokubum and Zaca, 2003; Mesquita, 2009).

Herein, we report the predation of a treefrog by *Guira guira* in Mineiros, southwestern Goiás, Central Brazil. On 02 November 2012 at around 16:00h in a farm (17°35'53"S, 52°35'04"W; Datum = WGS84; c. 655 m a.s.l.), we observed an individual of *G. guira* flying with an adult of the treefrog *S. aff. fuscovarius* in its beak. Later, the bird landed in a tree (*Cecropia pachystachya* Trécul) (Fig. 1), where it started to bite its prey successively. The treefrog was eviscerated and partially eaten by *G. guira*. However, it was not possible to see the predation event totally, because again the bird flew with treefrog in its beak. Observations lasted ca. 2 min until the frog was partially ingested, and this did not allow us a better identification. *Scinax fuscovarius* is a small nocturnal hylid with a wide distribution. It occurs in the Cerrado (Morais et al., 2011), and in areas with high anthropogenic impact, such as open

area and residences (Santana et al., 2013). Kopp et al. (2010) and Morais et al. (2011) recorded *S. fuscovarius* in southwestern Goiás. However, several morphotypes with different vocalizations may also be found in this area (Bastos R.P., pers. obs.).

Amphibians are important components in many food chains (Duellman and Trueb, 1994), since they are prey for many organisms, such as invertebrates, fishes, other amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals (Toledo 2003, Toledo et al., 2007). Toledo et al. (2007) reviewed the most common vertebrate predators of amphibians, and birds represented about 15% of the records. Predation of amphibians by *G. guira* has been poorly reported in literature, with *Physalaemus* cf. *fuscumaculatus* (Kokubum and Zaca, 2003) and *Rhinella granulosa* (Mesquita, 2009) being recorded as preys.

Soave et al. (2008) analyzed the stomach content of 62 individuals of *G. guira*, and found that the most common preys were invertebrates. However, anurans represented about 2.5% of total preys, including *Leptodactylus latinasus*, *Leptodactylus* sp., *Rhinella fernandezae*, *R. arenarum*, *Hypsiboas pulchellus*, *Hypsiboas* sp. and an unidentified anuran. Toledo et al. (2007) proposed that some bird species could ingest amphibians opportunistically. In this sense, we suggest that habitat use of *S. aff. fuscovarius* may have facilitated its predation. In conclusion, this paper reinforces that *G. guira* is an opportunistic predator of amphibians and may be useful to understand predator-prey interactions between birds and amphibians in the Cerrado biome.

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Figure 1. Individual of *Guira guira* with an adult of *Scinax* aff. *fuscovarius* in its beak, Mineiros, Goiás, Brazil.

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