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NOTES ON AMEIVA EXSUL (COPE) FROM CULEBRA ISLAND, PUERTO RICO

## George R. Pisani

While visiting Culebra Island during early April, 1969, I had the opportunity to collect 17 specimens (10 male; 7 female) of the lizard <u>Ameiva exsul</u>. The following data are from that collection, as related to data of other authors.

### Descriptions

All specimens generally agree with descriptions of the species given by Schmidt (1928) and Heatwole and Torres (1967). Schmidt (1928) stated the number of femoral pores to average 15.5 on each side. My specimens averaged somewhat higher (16.7 right; 16.9 left). Ventral plates were arranged in ten longitudinal rows in all but one male, which had 11 rows. Body lengths of the specimens are summarized in table 1.

Table 1. Lengths of Ameiva exsul (Cope)

A. Males with intact tails (N=7).

75.0

range	Snout-Vent (mm)	Tail (mm)	Total length
	59-112	163-288	.685742
mean	82.1	208.7	.719
B. Female	es with intact tails (N	⊫6)	Tail length/
	Snout-Vent(mm)	Tail(mm)	Total length
range	58-91	144-204	.680715

172.2

Toil length/

.682

#### Food

mean

<u>Ameiva exsul</u> has been reported to feed upon a wide variety of food items, ranging from seeds and mushrooms to a lizard tail (Wolcott, 1923; Schmidt, 1928; Grant, 1931; Heatwole and Torres, 1967). Of seventeen stomachs examined here, only one was empty (lizards were collected 9:30 AM to 12 noon local time, and injected with formalin immediately after). In one specimen. the stomach contents were totally unidentifiable, and in another, stomach and contents were destroyed during capture. A summary of all identifiable stomach contents examined from the remaining specimens is presented in table 2.

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# Table 2. Summary of stomach contents of <u>Ameiva exsul</u>. (N=14)

Item (to order)	Number of Stomachs Containing Item	Per Cent of Total Identified Items
Class Crustacea 1. Oniscoida (sowbugs)	1	5.8%
Class Gasteropoda 1. snails (Order unknown	n) 2	7.7%
Class Arachnida 1. A <b>rane</b> ida (spiders)	2	3.8%
Class Insecta 1. Isoptera (termites) 2. Dermaptera (earwigs)	1	1.9% 5.8%
3. Orthoptera (Gryllidae- cricket		35.0%
4. Coleoptera (beetles) larvae adults	14	1.9% 11.5%
5. Lepidoptera (butterf: and moths) larvae	lies 5	15.4%
adults 6. unknown pupa	i 1	1.9% 1.9%
Class Reptilia 1. Lacertilia ? (eggs)	3	5.8%

Insecta represent the greatest percentage of all identifiable food items recorded (84.9 per cent). Wolcott (1923) observed that insects constituted 78 per cent of the diet of specimens of <u>A. exsul</u> he examined. Schmidt (1928) observed <u>A. exsul</u> to eat considerable amounts of plant material, though this was not seen here.

In addition to material presented in Table 2, two specimens had eaten a number of dull white, ellipsoidal objects measuring lmm X 4mm that appeared to be the eggs of an Orthopteran insect. The remains of crickets are also present in these two specimens, and perhaps they are the source of the objects. Another lizard was found to have a reptilian egg shell in its lower intestine. Quantities of unidentifiable material were present in several stomachs.

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#### Reproduction

One of the specimens collected was a gravid female containing 3 white eggs (1 in left oviduct; 2 in right) measuring 20.0mm X 13.0mm (average) that appeared to be ready for deposition. Wolcott (1923) reported two batches of eggs to number 4 and 7, and measure 20-22mm X 13-15.5mm. Smith (1968) expressed the opinion that female Ameiva festiva and A. quadrilineata from Costa Rica probably lay at least three clutches per year. It would be interesting to determine the exact cycle for A. exsul.

Sincere thanks are expressed to Miss Pat Hennessy for help in collecting specimens, and to Mr. and Mrs. John Vincent for their warm hospitality during our visit.

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> 4013 Bell Avenue Bronx, New York 10466