15 g (Souza. 1995. Herpetol. Rev. 26:34), though the CL of this specimen was 47.3 mm. The specimen here reported, probably a recent post-hatchling, represents a new record for minimum body mass and plastron length for a juvenile *H. maximiliani*.

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HYDROMEDUSA MAXIMILIANI (Brazilian Snake-necked Turtle)**. DIET.** Adult *Hydromedusa maximiliani* are primarily carnivorous, feeding on aquatic invertebrates, including insect larvae and crustaceans (Souza 2004. Reptilia 53:51–55; Souza and Abe 1995. Chelon. Conserv. Biol. 1:320–322; Souza and Abe 1998. J. Herpetol. 32:106–112). This diet is complemented by terrestrial invertebrates that fall into the water, anurans, and carrion (Souza 2004, *op. cit.*). Here we report on *H. maximiliani* feeding on *Trichodactylus fluviatilis*, a freshwater decapod native to South America.

We gathered data on the feeding habits of *H. maximiliani* from October 2004 to May 2005, in the Reserva Biológica Municipal Santa Cândida (21.6888889°S, 43.3444444°W; 770 m elev.), Juiz de Fora, Minas Gerais state, Brazil. The stomach contents of 10 specimens of *H. maximiliani* were sampled by flushing (Legler 1977. Herpetologica 33:281–284). The decapod was identified in accordance with Magalhães (2003. *In* Melo [ed.], Manual de Identificação dos Crustáceos Decápodos de Água Doce do Brasil, pp. 143–287. São Paulo, Edições Loyola). Six samples of stomach contents revealed parts of the carapace, pereiopod, and cheliped of *T. fluviatilis*. Freshwater decapods previously reported as prey of *H. maximiliani* are *Aegla odebrechi*, *A. paulensis*, and *Hyalella pernix* (Yashimita 1990. Herpetol. Rev. 21:19; Souza and Abe 1995, *op. cit.*; Souza and Abe 1998, *op. cit.*; Souza and Abe 1997. Bol. Asoc. Herpetol. Esp. 8:17–20). This is the first report of *T. fluviatilus* being consumed by *H. maximiliani*.

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KINOSTERNON SONORIENSE (Sonoran Mud Turtle). **DIET.** *Kinosternon sonoriense* is generally considered a carnivore, but occasionally consumes plant material when benthic fauna are limited (Hulse 1974. J. Herpetol. 8:195–199). Over the last decade, we have documented several observations of Sonoran Mud Turtles feeding on vertebrates in ephemeral canyon pools in the Peloncillo Mountains, Hidalgo Co., New Mexico (Ligon and Stone 2003. Herpetol. Rev. 34:241–242; Stone et al. 2005. Herpetol. Rev. 36:312). Here, we add the House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) to the list of vertebrate species *K. sonoriense* has consumed in this setting. On 17 July 2007, ca.1200 h, we approached an isolated canyon pool (ca. 20 cm in depth and 1.5 m^2 in area) and observed a dead House Finch floating near the edge. Just before we began to search the pool, we noticed the dead bird gently rippling on the surface. We examined the bird and noted its breast and belly were missing and much of the sides and flanks had been picked clean of meat, with only the head, wings, and legs remaining intact. A female *K. sonoriense* (MCL = 100.8 mm) was found on the bottom of the pool directly underneath the bird. After identifying and measuring the turtle, we placed the turtle and bird back into the pool and then quietly waited and observed. After a few minutes the bird again began to gently ripple, presumably due to the turtle feeding on the carcass.

Stone et al. (2005, *op. cit.*) reported a similar observation involving a Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottus*), and Ligon and Stone (2003, *op. cit.*) reported two instances of Sonoran Mud Turtles feeding on toads (*Bufo punctatus*). These are the only birds and only anurans we have found dead in canyon pools during a long-term field study (Stone 2001. Southwest. Nat. 46:41–53). Stone et al. (2005, *op. cit.*) also observed a Sonoran Mud Turtle kill and eat a garter snake (*Thamnophis cyrtopsis*). Although observations involving birds and anurans could represent instances of scavenging, the accumulated observations suggest that *K. sonoriense* opportunistically preys on vertebrates in canyon pools. Regardless, it is clear that canyon pools provide unique feeding opportunities for Sonoran Mud Turtles, and that vertebrates likely comprise a more significant portion of this species' diet than previously reported.

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CROCODYLIA — CROCODILIANS

CAIMAN CROCODILUS (Spectacled Caiman)**. OPPORTUNISTIC FORAGING.** We document opportunistic foraging behavior by *Caiman crocodilus* in a post-inundation

forest at Estacíon Biologíca Caño Palma, Costa Rica. Estacíon Biologíca Caño Palma is a 40-ha reserve located on the northeast coast of Costa Rica, south of Barra del Colorado. This reserve and the surrounding area is lowland tropical wet forest (*fide* Holdridge 1967. Lifezone Ecology, Tropical Science Center, San José, Costa Rica. 206 pp.) comprised predominantly of *Manicaria* swamp forest (Myers 1990. *In* Lugo et al. [eds.], Ecosystems of the World, pp. 267–278. Elsevier, Oxford, UK, 527 pp.). Bounded by large catchment rivers to the north, south, and west with a blackwater channel to the east, the forest inundates seasonally (November–December and May). *Manicaria* forests typically exhibit a prominent bi-annual polymodal inundation during the wettest season (Junk et al. 2000. The Central Amazon floodplain: Actual Use and Options for a Sustainable Management. Backhuys Publishers, Leiden, Holland. 584 pp.). The seasonal inundation event that engulfs Estacíon Biologíca Caño Palma is also coupled with local tidal flow patterns (Kelso 1967. A Contribution to the Ecology of a Tropical Estuary. M.Sc. Thesis, Univ. Florida, Gainesville. 156 pp.). Once inundation subsides, numerous temporal pools remain in the forest; these generally disappear during the warmer (and drier) months of the year.

In December 2002 and again in January 2004, during three months of weekly diurnal visual-encounter transects of post-inundation *Manicaria* forest, 5 adult and 7 juvenile caiman (2002) and 4 adult and 3 juvenile caiman (2004) respectively were located well into (often > 100 m) the forest. Once disturbed, they retreated terrestrially toward the channel associated with riparian habitat, rapidly slipping in and out of temporary pools as they headed in an easterly direction toward the main blackwater channel bordering the property.

Caiman reproduction, which generally occurs during the rainy season in this region of Costa Rica (November–February), involves construction of vegetation mounds in forested environments to incubate their eggs (Allsteadt 1994. J. Herpetol. 22:12–19.). As in other crocodilians, caiman exhibit well-developed parental care and will defend nests from predators, the primary threat to their eggs (Leenders 2001. A Guide to Amphibians and Reptiles of Costa Rica. Zona Tropical, Miami, Florida. 305 pp.). We detected no evidence of nests or nest-guarding behavior in the areas where we sighted caiman. However, these areas, still saturated by water, were found to frequently be full of suffocating fish trapped in desiccating flood pools or anurans utilizing these ponds for breeding. Fish species present included: *Archocentrus nigrofasciatus* and *Parachromis managuensis* (Cichlidae), *Rhamdia guatemalensis* and *Rhamdia rogersi* (Pimelodidae), and *Astyanax aeneus* (Characidae). *Atractosteus tropicus* (Order: Semionotiformes) were also hunting in these pools and may have constituted prey. That caiman were feeding on the diverse prey within these seasonally restricted environments seems likely. Fish are an important prey species for many crocodilians (Magnusson 1987. J. Herpetol. 21:85–95) and can make up over 25% of total prey items in sub-adult and mature adult caiman (Thorbjarnarson 1993. Herpetologica 49:108–117; Velasco et al. 1994. Crocodile Specialist Group Newsletter 13:20–21). In tropical blackwaters Cichlidae, Pimelodidae, and Characidae can make up 10–27% of the composition of fish species consumed (Thorbjarnarson 1993, *op. cit.*; Santos et al. 1996. Herpetol. J. 6:111–117) and possibly more when increases in water level like that which occurred along the Caño Palma allow more fish access to greater volumes of water and increased predation susceptibility (Silveira and Magnusson 1999. J. Herpetol. 33:181–192).

Caiman now occur in diverse habitats such as marshes, rivers, channels, and lakes in both the Caribbean and Pacific lowlands of Costa Rica, particularly as a result of the now-diminished ranges of sympatric competitors (*Crocodylus acutus*) (Magnusson 1982. Proc. 5th IUCN/SSC Croc. Spec. Group, pp. 108–116. Gland, Switzerland). They are commonly found in the canals, dikes, and channel networks in forested floodplain habitats (Allsteadt and Vaughan 1992. Brenesia 38:65–69; Guyer 1994. *In* McDade et al. [eds.], La Selva: Ecology and Natural History of a Neotropical Rain Forest, pp. 210–216. Univ. Chicago Press, Chicago, Illinois; Guyer and Donnelly 2005. Amphibians and Reptiles of La Selva, Costa Rica and the Caribbean Slope. Univ. California Press, Berkeley, California. 299 pp.; Ouboter and Nanhoe 1988. J. Herpetol. 22:283–294; Savage 2002. The Amphibians and Reptiles of Costa Rica: A Herpetofauna Between Two Continents, Between Two Seas. Univ. Chicago Press, Illinois. 934 pp.). This species is known to establish territories in local channel networks where they exhibit high site tenacity (Savage 2002, *op. cit.*), especially in areas that provide a sustainable food resource. Opportunistic seasonal shifts in habitat use has not been widely reported in *Caiman crocodilus*. Our observations imply that these habitat shifts provide enhanced feeding opportunities that might be unavailable the rest of the year. We present two models that might explain these habitat shifts. In the first, caiman might periodically abandon their territories within the permanent channel network during episodic inundation to specifically forage for trapped fish within temporary pools in the forest. The second model proposes that caiman, along with other fauna, advance into the forest during inundation following the expanding shoreline. As the water recedes, some aquatic animals are trapped in pools where they are vulnerable to amphibious predators, such as caiman. Caiman are able to escape back to traditional channel-margin habitat as the pools disappear. Which is correct provides an interesting question for further research.

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CROCODYLUS MORELETII (Morelet's Crocodile). **SALINITY TOLERANCE**. Salinity and temperature are the major abiotic factors limiting crocodile distribution and abundance (Duson and Mazzotti 1989. B. Mar. Sci. 44:229–244; Mazzotti et al. 2007. J. Herpetol. 41:122–132; Richards et al. 2004. Ecol. Model. 180:371–394). *Crocodylus moreletii* lacks excretory (salt)