

GASTROPHRYNE CAROLINENSIS (Eastern Narrow-mouthed Toad).

PREDATION. A series of strong scattered thunderstorms passed through the Central Savannah River Area (CSRA) in Georgia and South Carolina, USA on 28 June 2011 from ca. 1400–2100 h and filled a few patchily-distributed depression wetlands with a few centimeters of standing water. One small (ca. 20 m × 10 m) wetland (Risher Pond Sloughs, Barnwell Co., South Carolina) hosted an anuran breeding assemblage of ca. 30 *Hyla femoralis*, 20 *H. squirella*, 20 *Gastrophryne carolinensis*, 6 *Pseudacris ocularis*, and 10 *H. chrysoscelis* by 2138 h. At 0016 h, an adult (499 mm SVL; 32.6 g) female *Thamnophis s. sauritus* was found ca. 1.7 m above the surface of the water in a stand of dead *Panicum hemitomon*. The *T. s. sauritus* was in the process of swallowing a gravid female *G. carolinensis* (32 mm SVL; 2.25 g) and moved slowly around in the *Panicum* with the front of the toad hanging out of the right side of its mouth. After observing the snake for four minutes, we captured it and removed the *G. carolinensis* from its mouth. Both animals were returned to the lab for measurements. The *G. carolinensis* was dead by 0800 h the next morning and the *T. s. sauritus* was released unharmed post-processing without any noticeable ill effects from exposure to the *G. carolinensis*. *Gastrophryne carolinensis* are toxic to many predators, which will often refuse to eat them (Garton and Mushinsky 1979. *Can. J. Zool.* 57:1965–1973), and few firsthand accounts of *G. carolinensis* predation exist, possibly because of this toxicity. *Thamnophis s. sauritus* is a generalist amphibian predator that is known to consume a wide variety of prey (Brown 1979. *Brimleyana* 1:113–124; Carpenter 1952. *Ecol. Monogr.* 4:235–258). Only one account of a *T. sauritus* eating a *G. carolinensis* exists as a personal communication from R. W. Gaul Jr. in North Carolina (Palmer and Braswell 1995. *Reptiles of North Carolina*. Univ. North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, North Carolina), but to our knowledge, this is the first confirmed firsthand observation of a *T. s. sauritus* depredate a *G. carolinensis*.

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