

## Reptilia: Squamata (lizards)

### *Basiliscus basiliscus*. Predation.

Three species of basilisk lizards are found in Costa Rica, of which one, *Basiliscus basiliscus*, is restricted to the Pacific versant of the country. A relatively large lizard, *B. basiliscus* is an abundant species that spends most of its time basking, foraging, and resting along streams (Savage, 2002). This species is known to feed on active prey such as insects, fresh-water shrimp, fishes, lizards, snakes, birds, and mammals, but its diet also includes flowers and the fruits of streamside plants (Barden, 1943; Van Devender, 1983; Savage, 2002).

On 13 February 2014, at 1145 h, one of us (LAH) encountered an adult male *B. basiliscus* feeding on an adult *Thamnophis proximus* (Fig. 1) along the Río Bebedero, Parque Nacional Palo Verde, in the Provincia de Guanacaste. The basilisk was perched on a root that extended diagonally into the river, about 3 m from the water and 1 m from the bank. This note represents the first report of *B. basiliscus* preying on *T. proximus*.



**Fig. 1.** An adult male *Basiliscus basiliscus* feeding on an adult *Thamnophis proximus* along the Río Bebedero, Parque Nacional Palo Verde, Provincia de Guanacaste, Costa Rica. © Laurens A. Hidalgo

### LITERATURE CITED

- BARDEN, A. 1943. Food of the basilisk lizard in Panama. *Copeia* 1943: 118–121.
- SAVAGE, J. M. 2002. The Amphibians and Reptiles of Costa Rica: A Herpetofauna between Two Continents, between Two Seas. The University of Chicago Press, Chicago, Illinois, United States.
- VAN DEVENDER, R. W. 1978. Growth ecology of a tropical lizard, *Basiliscus basiliscus*. *Ecology* 59: 1,031–1,038.

ALEJANDRO SOLÓRZANO<sup>1</sup> AND LAURENS A. HIDALGO<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Research Associate, Museo de Zoología, Escuela de Biología, Universidad de Costa Rica, Ciudad Universitaria Rodrigo Facio, San Pedro de Montes de Oca, San José, Costa Rica. E-mail: solorzano29@gmail.com

<sup>2</sup>Barrio Capulín, Residencial Los Sueños, Liberia, Guanacaste, Costa Rica. E-mail: nephew2307@yahoo.com