

ATRACTASPIDIDAE

Homoroselaps lacteus (Linnaeus, 1754) Spotted Harlequin Snake

DIET / PREDATION

On 21 January 2005, at 19h38, I observed a Spotted Harlequin Snake, *Homoroselaps lacteus* (total length 405.7 mm) eating a Russet Slug Eater, *Duberria lutrix lutrix* (total length 347 mm). The observation was made on a perfect summer evening in Campsbay, Cape Town (33° 57' 57" S, 18° 22' 44" E). Approximately 200 mm of the *Duberria* was swallowed before it was regurgitated, the body at this point being too thick for the *Homoroselaps* to swallow. The *Duberria* had died prior to regurgitation.

Branch (1988. *Field Guide to the Snakes and Other Reptiles of Southern Africa*. First ed., Struik, Cape Town) and Marais (*A Complete Guide to Snakes of Southern Africa*. Second ed., Struik Publishers, Cape Town) mention that *Homoroselaps lacteus* preys on other snakes, but do not specify the types of snakes eaten except for the Blind Snakes (*Typhlops*). They also mention that *Duberria lutrix lutrix* is eaten by other snakes, but again without indicating which species.

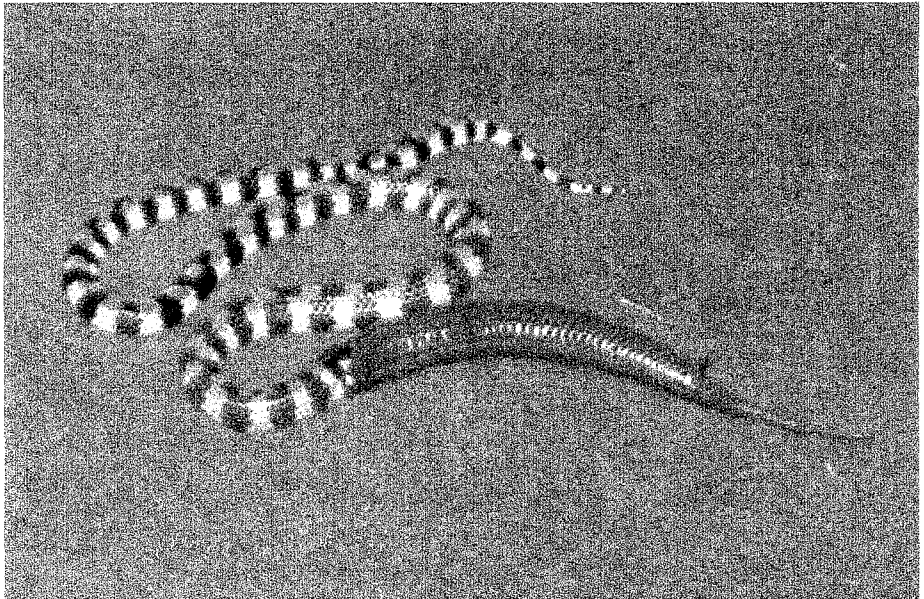
The EMBL Reptile Database <http://www.embl-heidelberg.de/~uetz/LivingReptiles.html> also gives no specific information in this respect.

Acknowledgement:

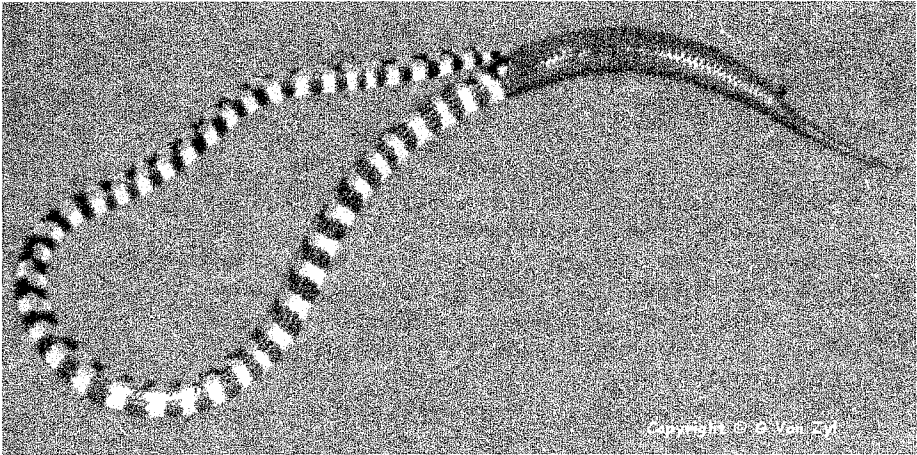
I would like to thank Marius Burger for the confirmation of the identification of the two species in this note, and for scrutinising the format and content of this note.

Submitted by:

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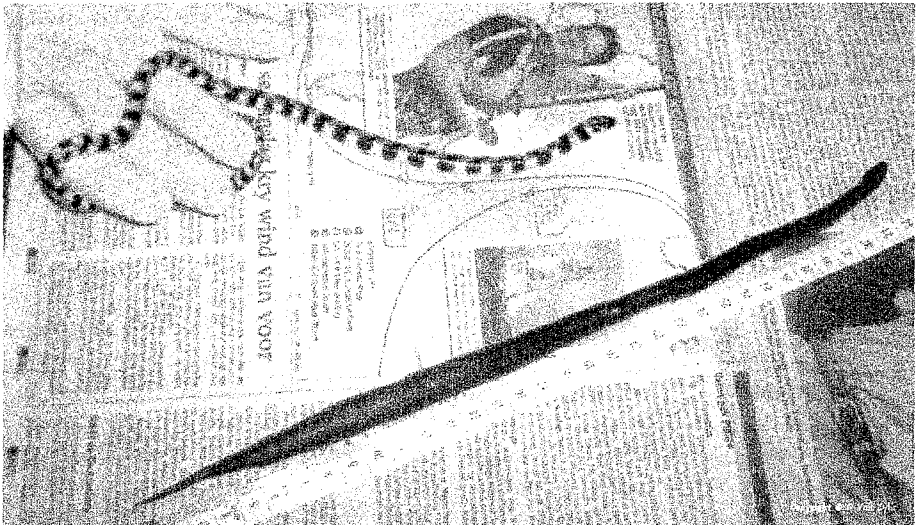


Homoroselaps lacteus sawallowing *Duberria lutrix lutrix*. Photo: © G. Van Zyl



Homoroselaps lacteus sawallowing *Duberria lutrix lutrix*.

Photo: © G. Van Zyl



Homoroselaps lacteus and *Duberria lutrix lutrix*.

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