



# Predation on *Dendropsophus brevifrons* (Duellman & Crump, 1974) (Anura: Hylidae) by the giant fishing spider *Ancylometes rufus* (Walckenaer, 1837) (Araneae: Ctenidae)

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**We report a predation event of *Dendropsophus brevifrons* by *Ancylometes rufus* from Eastern Amazon. Our observation corroborates the importance of opportunistic predation of spiders on the frogs in breeding activity.**

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Different species of invertebrates are known and well documented to prey on amphibians (Toledo, 2005; Wells, 2007). Arthropods, including spiders, are potential predators of amphibians, and according to Menin *et al.* (2005), predation by spiders is an important factor of mortality in amphibians.

*Dendropsophus brevifrons* (Duellman & Crump, 1974) is a small sized nocturnal species usually observed on the leaves of bushes in tropical rainforest and secondary forest in the Amazon Basin (Rodríguez & Duellman, 1994). After heavy rains, the frogs congregate at temporary ponds in, or at the edge of, the forest for reproduction (Rodríguez & Duellman, 1994).

*Ancylometes rufus* (Walckenaer, 1837) is a large sized fishing spider distributed throughout the rainforests of the Amazon basin and the Atlantic coast of Brazil (Höfer & Brescovit, 2000). This species forages mainly on the ground in the wet areas, where it feeds mostly on arthropods and amphibians (Prado & Borgo, 2003; Toledo, 2005; Maffei *et al.*, 2010; Moura & Azevedo, 2011; Maffei *et al.*, 2014), close to or far from bodies of water; however, it is much more abundant close to small streams and temporary water bodies (Gasnier *et al.*, 2002).

Herein, we report a predation event by *D. brevifrons* on an *A. rufus* from Eastern Amazon. On 28 January 2016, during an anuran survey in an area of tropical semideciduous forest in Eastern Amazon forest (0°54'03"N, 52°00'48"W), municipality of Serra do Navio, Amapá state, Brazil, we observed a giant fishing spider *A. rufus* predating an adult *D. brevifrons* at the edge of a small temporary pond in the right bank of the Amapari River.

*Ancylometes rufus* was observed in the water surface gripping on the posterior region of the hylid with its chelicerae and with aid of the pedipalps. The effect of the spider venom was fast, immobilizing the tree frog in 45 seconds, and five minutes later the frog showed no more reaction. After this was found perched on a branch about 1.5 m above the water surface of the temporary pond (fig. 1).

Predation events of *Dendropsophus* by spiders have been reported for different species of the neotropical region (Menin *et al.*, 2005; Santana *et al.*, 2009; Bocchiglieri *et al.*, 2010; Moura & Azevedo, 2011; Bovo *et al.*, 2014). In a review of anurans as prey for invertebrates, Toledo (2005) found 68 reports of frogs predated by three different spider families, in particular Pisauridae and Ctenidae.

Our observation corroborate the importance of opportunistic predation of spiders on the frogs in breeding activity.



**Figure 1.** The spider *Ancylometes rufus* preying on an adult of *Dendropsophus brevifrons* in Serra do Navio, Amapá, Brazil.

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