



Predation by an Amazonian Giant Centipede (*Scolopendra gigantea*) on a Baker's Cat-eyed Snake (*Leptodeira bakeri*)

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On Aruba on 2 January 2017, Dr. H. Dilrosun observed an Amazonian Giant Centipede (*Scolopendra gigantea*), about 18 cm in length, attack a Baker's Cat-eyed Snake (*Leptodeira bakeri*). These centipedes, which occur through-



Fig. 1. A Baker's Cat-eyed Snake (*Leptodeira bakeri*) attacked, killed, and eaten by an Amazonian Giant Centipede (*Scolopendra gigantea*) on Aruba. Photograph by Dr. H. Dilrosun.

out northern South America and some continental islands, can reach lengths to 30 cm (Shelley and Kiser 2000). They are known to consume a variety of invertebrate prey and small vertebrates, including frogs, lizards, snakes, birds, and mammals; large individuals are known to climb cave ceilings and catch bats (Molinari et al. 2005). Baker's Cat-eyed Snakes, locally known as "Santanero," occur on Aruba and in north-eastern Venezuela (Mijares-Urrutia et al. 1995). The snake died about half an hour after initially observed, after which the centipede began to eat it.

Literature Cited

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