Defensive behavior and predation on *Placosoma glabellum* (Peters, 1870) (Squamata: Gymnophthalmidae)

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Placosoma glabellum (Peters, 1870) occurs in the Atlantic Forest of Southeastern and Southern Brazil, from Rio de Janeiro to Santa Catarina, and is characterized by rounded posterior margins of the ventral scales, absence of keels or extremely short keels on the dorsals, four enlarged dorsal scales between the granular areas of the arm insertions and the anterior border of the tympanum with a reflexed ridge of granules (Uzzell Jr., 1959).

Behavioral ecology is poorly known in gymnophtalmid lizards. Regarding predatory records they have been reported as being consumed by colubrid snakes (Prudente *et al.,* 1998) and leptodactylid frogs (Couto & Menin, 2014). Thanatosis, also called death-feigning, has been reported for different families of lizards, including Anelytropsidae (Torres-Cervantes *et al.,* 2004), Crotaphytidae (Gluesing 1983), Liolaemidae (Rocha 1993, Santos *et al.,* 2010), Scincidae (Langkilde *et al.,* 2003), and Tropiduridae (e.g. Galdino & Pereira 2002, Gomes *et al.,* 2004, Bertoluci *et al.,* 2006). In this work, we report a novel defensive behavior (thanatosis) for *P. glabellum* and a predation event involving *Siphlophis pulcher* (Raddi, 1820) in the Dacnis Nature Reserve, Municipality of Ubatuba, Atlantic Forest of Southeastern Brazil.

On 26 March 2016, at 09h30, a small specimen of *P. glabellum* was captured in the Dacnis Project (23º 27.772' S 45º



Figure 1. Regurgitated specimen of *P. glabellum,* **predated by** *S. pulcher* **(A-B); specimen of** *P. glabellum* **in thanatosis (C-D).**

7.989' W, 36 m asl, WGS-84), Municipality of Ubatuba, state of São Paulo, Brazil. The individual was found inside a residence. Once it was captured, the specimen remained still, until the moment it was released back on the leaf litter, when it turned its venter up, closed its eyelids and maintained this posture for approximately 60 seconds. After we attempted to touch it again, the specimen fled under the substrate (Fig. 1).

In another occasion, in 13 January 2016, at 22h00, a juvenile *Siphlophis pulcher* (TTL = 43 cm) was observed at 1.5 m above the ground, in a *Euterpe edulis* palm tree, in the Atlantic Forest near Ubatuba (23º 27.439'S 45º 8.781'W, 32 m asl, WGS-84), São Paulo, Brazil. After capture for measurement, the individual was released at its collection site, where it regurgitated a partially digested specimen of *Placosoma glabellum* (Fig. 2).

Prudente *et al*. (1998), reported a specimen of *Placosoma* sp. and another unidentified gymnophtalmid lizard in their analysis of stomach contents of *S. pulcher*. Our specimen represents the first predation of *S. pulcher* on *P. glabellum*.

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Allobates aff. *brunneus,* Canaã dos Carajás, PA. Foto: Rodrigo Tinoco.