Anurans are common preys to some species of spiders (Menin et al., 2005). Not only adults (e.g., Barej et al., 2005), but also tadpoles are preyed on by spiders (e.g., Folly et al., 2014a; Luiz et al., 2013). The frog species *Adenomera marmorata* Steindachner, 1867, occurs in the Atlantic Rain Forest in southeastern Brazil, from Rio de Janeiro to Santa Catarina states (Frost, 2015), and is one of the most abundant amphibian species in the leaf-litter (Heyer et al., 1990; Rocha et al., 2007). It is mostly a nocturnal frog, but males can also be heard at anytime of the day during rainy days (Izecksohn and Carvalho-e-Silva, 2001). Males call from chambers dug in the ground, where the females lay their eggs embedded in foam nests (Izecksohn and Carvalho-e-Silva, 2001). The spider family Ctenidae is the only known Brazilian wandering spider family including members that can harm humans, with a large number of medically important bites in Brazil each year (Martins and Bertani, 2007). They can be easily identified by a longitudinal groove on the rear of their carapace and by the eye formula 4-2-2, with four frontal eyes, two tiny middle eyes and two large posterior eyes (Jocqué and Dippenaar-Schoeman, 2006). Ctenids are nocturnal hunters, running mainly on the leaf litter. They use mainly vibration and visual contact to locate prey, catching and killing them with their powerful poison, delivered by the fangs of their strong chelicerae (Jocqué and Dippenaar-Schoeman, 2006).

*Ctenus ornatus* (Keyserling, 1877) is a large and very common ground spider in the Atlantic Forest, distributed from Pernambuco state, in Northeast, to Goiás state, in the West, both in Brazil, to Misiones, Argentina (Brescovit and Simó, 2007).

The following event was observed during a herpetological field work at approximately 07:30 pm on 10 August, 2014, at the Centro Marista São José das Paineiras, Mendes municipality, Rio de Janeiro State, southeastern Brazil (22°30′48″S, 43°45′14″W). The Centro Marista São José das Paineiras is located in a relatively well-preserved area, mostly covered by secondary forest. Its anuran fauna is currently under study and has shown to be quite diverse (Folly et al., 2014b). While searching the leaf-litter, an adult female of *Ctenus ornatus* was seen jumping onto an adult *A. marmorata*, and quickly biting the frog’s dorsum with its chelicerae. The spider soon let the motionless *A. marmorata* loose, but stayed at approximately 5 cm from its prey until we collected both specimens. The frog died on the way back to Centro Marista headquarters. Both specimens were collected and deposited as vouchers. The spider (prosoma 5.52 mm long; 4.0 mm wide) is housed in the Laboratório de Diversidade de Aracnídeos, Departamento de Zoologia, Instituto de Biologia, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ 0949), and the frog (snout-vent length 18.87 mm) is housed in the Amphibian Collection of Departamento de Zoologia.
Instituto de Biologia, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (ZUFRJ 14937).

Predation of *Adenomera marmorata* by *Ctenus medius* Keyserling, 1891 was previously reported by Barbo et al. (2009). Despite being the only report of *Ctenus* species preying on *A. marmorata*, the authors have suggested that this behavior was presumably more frequent. Our report of another *Ctenus* species preying on the same anuran species supports their suggestion. The form of attack was similar to the one described before (Barbo et al., 2009), differing only regarding the distance of the spider from the prey. As both *Ctenus* species and the frog *A. marmorata* are common nocturnal animals in the Atlantic forest, often sharing the same habitats, predation might be common, albeit not usually recorded. Knowledge of trophic relations is an important key to understanding species’ interactions with its surroundings. Records of predation in nature are rare and can be helpful for behavioral and community ecology in addition to other studies.

References


