Predation of White Anole (*Anolis laeviventris*) by Blue-crowned motmot (*Momotus momota*) in a montane forest reserve in Veracruz, Mexico

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Anole lizards are common, widely distributed, and they are eaten by spiders, frogs, other lizards, snakes, birds, and mammals (Losos and Greene, 2009). *Anolis laeviventris* is distributed from Southeastern Mexico to Central America (EOL, 2014). Here we report a predation event on an adult *A. laeviventris* by a Blue-crowned motmot (*Momotus momota*). The White anole is a common arboreal lizard in the central region of Veracruz, Mexico. Its natural history is poorly known, however, and we have no information regarding its ecological interactions.

The members of the genus *Momotus* (Aves: Momotidae) are large and sedentary birds presumably requiring less relative energy intake compared to smaller birds (Jones 2009). *M. momota* is found mostly in cloud montane forest (Orejuela, 1980) of Middle and South America (Greeney et al., 2006, Snow 2001, Stiles 2009, Skutch 1945). *M. momota* is omnivorous, feeding mainly on arthropods and fruits, its diet may also include frogs (Master 1999), snakes (Stiles and Skutch 1989), mammals (Delgado-V. and Brooks, 2003; Chacón-Madrigal and Barrantes, 2004; Greeney et al., 2006; Sandoval et al., 2008), and other birds (García-C and Zahawi, 2006).

During a study on 1 September 2014 at 10:10 am in a montane forest fragment within the protected area Parque Francisco Javier Clavijero at Xalapa Municipality, Veracruz, Mexico (19.514511°, -96.938361°), an adult *M. momota* was captured in a mist net carrying a dead lizard in its beak (Figure 1). The lizard was identified as a female *Anolis laeviventris* (the dewlap was not well-developed as in males, but we were able to observe the characteristic coloration of the species), a common reptile in this region that is characterized by having a white dewlap. Adults and juveniles are usually found foraging on leaves, which is the period when

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Figure 1. The Blue-crowned motmot (*Momotus momota*) before it was released with its prey White Anole (*Anolis laeviventris*).
they are at higher risk of being predated. We released the Blue-crowned motmot after it was processed along with its prey. Records of birds eating anoles is not new (Wunderle, 1981; Adolph and Roughgarden, 1983; McLaughlin and Roughgarden, 1989; Aborn and Froehlich, 1995; Poulin et al., 2001; Delgado-V and Brooks, 2003; Sykes et al., 2007); however, after our literature review we find this is the first report of a predation event on *A. laeviventris* by *M. momota*, and more generally by any other bird species. Moreover, we did not find any other report on natural predators for this species of lizard.

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**References**


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