

## Notes on the Food Habits of Three Common Lizards of Southern Oklahoma

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During the 1952 summer session (June and July) of the University of Oklahoma Biological Station, Lake Texoma, near Willis, Marshall County, Oklahoma, a preliminary study was made of the food habits of the Six Lined Racerunner, (*Cnemidophorus sexlineatus*), the Brown Skink, (*Scincella laterale*), and the Rough Scaled Lizard, (*Sceloporus undulatus hyacinthinus*). The data were collected by making autopsies of the digestive tracts (especially the stomachs) of thirty-one lizards. Apparently, no such study has previously been reported for this area, although Burt (1) made an extensive study of the insect foods of Kansas lizards, and Smith (2, 3) has discussed the food habits of many kinds of lizards.

As soon as possible after capture (usually within two hours), the specimens were killed by being kept for about fifteen minutes in a closed jar containing carbon tetrachloride fumes. The stomachs and intestines were removed, placed in a petri dish of distilled water, opened, and their contents examined under low-power magnification (30 X) with a dissecting microscope.

TABLE I  
Food Organisms Found in the Digestive Tracts of Three Oklahoma Lizards

KINDS OF ORGANISMS	<i>Scincella laterale</i>			<i>Sceloporus undulatus</i>		<i>Cnemidophorus sexlineatus</i>	
	MALE	FEMALE	IMMATURE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE
ARANEIDA							
Spiders	6*	5		1		2	1
ACARINA							
Mite		1					
DIPLOPODA							
Millipede	1						
ORTHOPTERA							
Grasshoppers	1	4			1	3	1
Walking Stick		1					
HOMOPTERA							
Leafhoppers	27	8	3				
COLEOPTERA							
BEETLES	2	2	1		1	1	
Beetle Larvae		3					
HYMENOPTERA							
Ants	6	54	3	20	10	1	
DIPTERA							
Midges	28	48		1		1	
MOLLUSCA							
Snail		1					
Total Organisms	71(10)**	126(10)	7(3)	22(1)	12(1)	8(5)	2(1)

\* Indicates number of individual organisms found in stomach.

\*\* Number of lizards examined in parentheses

*Cnemidophorus sexlineatus* was found on the east side of Buncombe Creek (a tributary of Lake Texoma) across from the Biological Station. This species was abundant in an area extending along the Lake's shore and

back from the shore about 75 yards, an area primarily covered with black willow (*Salix niger*) and sow greenbrier (*Smilax bona-nox*). Most lizards were seen on warm days.

*Scincella laterale*, found in abundance in leaf litter near a small creek immediately west of the Biological Station, seemed to be active during most of the day, although the best collecting was done on a day of intermittent rain.

*Sceloporus undulatus hyacinthinus*, found in very dry habitats near beaches or under logs along the beach, is somewhat like *Gnemidophorus sexlineatus* in that they are both seen during the relatively cool part of the day.

Except for several rainy days in July, the weather for the period was relatively dry.

The results are shown in Table 1.

#### LITERATURE CITED

1. BURT, CHARLES E. 1928. Insect food of Kansas lizards with notes on feeding habits. J. Kansas Entomol. Soc. 1:50-68.
2. SMITH, HOBART M. 1946. Handbook of lizards. Ithaca: Comstock Publishing Co.
3. ————. 1950. Handbook of amphibians and reptiles of Kansas. Univ. Kansas Museum Natural Hist. Misc. Publ. No. 2.