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ASPIDOSCELIS TESSELATUS (Checkered Whiptail). DIET and SCAVENGING. Whiptail lizards of the genus *Aspidoscelis* primarily consume live invertebrates, but there are a few accounts of whiptails consuming vertebrates (e.g., Babb and Brennan 2013. *Herpetol. Rev.* 44:507; Chávez-Martínez and Ramírez-Bautista 1998. *Herpetol. Rev.* 29:99–100). Opportunistic scavenging of dead prey has been reported for *A. gularis* (Ferrer and Lazcano 2016. *Herpetol. Rev.* 47:666). Here, we present an account of scavenging behavior on a novel vertebrate prey item for *A. tessellatus*, a common whiptail lizard species in the American southwest.

At ca. 0915 h on 25 June 2018 on Santa Elena Canyon Trail by the Rio Grande in Big Bend National Park, Texas, USA (29.165°N, 103.612°W; WGS 84), we observed an adult *A. tessellatus* carrying a small brown bat with black wings (likely *Myotis* sp.). On close inspection, the bat carcass appeared to be dried out, and, during continued observation of about 10 min, the lizard shook it and slapped it against the ground repeatedly, likely in an attempt to break off a piece small enough for consumption (Fig. 1). We continued down the trail, and both the bat and lizard were gone when we returned ca. 15 min later. To our knowledge, this observation represents both a novel food item (*Myotis* sp.) and a first report of attempted scavenging for this species. Our observation lends support to the idea that although whiptails primarily eat arthropods, they will opportunistically feed on vertebrates.



FIG. 1. Adult *Aspidoscelis tessellatus* carrying around a small dead bat.

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ASPIDOSCELIS TIGRIS SEPTENTRIONALIS (Plateau Tiger Whiptail). SUPERNUMERARY CAUDAL ANOMALY. *Aspidoscelis tigris* is a common lizard throughout much of the desert western United States. Having been variously divided into

subspecies, several distinct populations are noted. The subspecies *A. t. septentrionalis* is found across most of the Colorado Plateau and portions of adjacent warm deserts. Like all forms of the species, the Plateau Tiger Whiptail has a distinctly long tail. The average SVL for the subspecies is ca. 105 mm (Heyborne et al., unpubl. data), while the maximal tail length is nearly twice that. The long tail presumably evolved to increase locomotor ability, perhaps facilitating balance during bipedal bouts, and tail loss has been correlated with reduced locomotor performance (Ballinger et al. 1979. *Herpetologica* 35:114–116). Despite the increased fitness conveyed by intact tails, tail autotomy is relatively common in this species as an antipredator strategy.

At 1300 h on 1 August 2017, a *A. t. septentrionalis* was observed darting in and out from under concrete parking blocks in the parking area of Lower Calf Creek Falls, Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument, Utah, USA (37.79372°N, 111.41494°W; WGS 84; 1600 m elev.). Closer inspection showed the specimen to have a supernumerary tail anomaly. As has been reported for other species with supernumerary tails (Koleska and Jablonski 2018. *Phyllomedusa* 17:157–159), the tail appeared to have been broken at one point but not completely severed. The left fork was apparently the original tail, with a length and scalation typical for the species. The two secondary tails were both thicker and shorter than the original. The right secondary tail was ca. one quarter the length of the left fork (original tail) and ended in a broad blunt end. The left secondary tail was little more than a tip just beginning to form in between the original tail and the right secondary tail. The fork itself was excessive in size and curved slightly toward the animal's right side, where the secondary tails branched. The supernumerary condition coupled with the increased girth of the fork resulted in a tail that seemed unusually heavy for a lizard of this size. The increased mass appeared to impede the locomotory ability of the lizard as it was not as quick or as agile as a typical member of this species. Despite its decreased ability to locomote, attempts to capture the animal for closer examination were unsuccessful.



FIG. 1. *Aspidoscelis tigris septentrionalis* with supernumerary tails.