

FIG. 2. *Phyllomedusa hypochondrialis azurea* metamorph wiping secretions on its body with pronating hind limb.

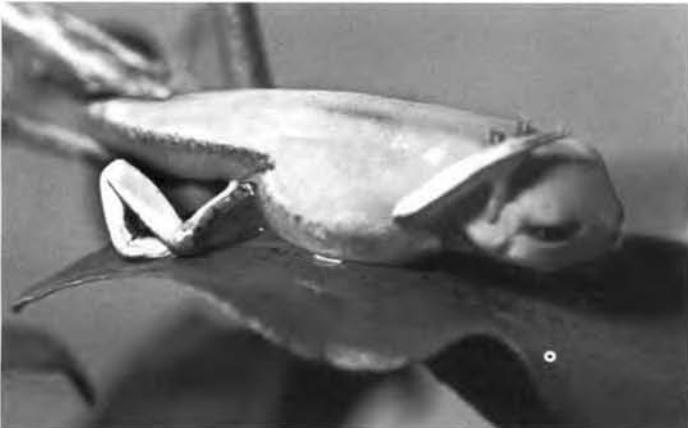


FIG. 3. Metamorph wiping secretions on its head with pronating forelimb.

the forelimb began at the parotoid, then progressed towards the face and snout, and postventrally over the belly. Once a wiping motion was initiated, the individual would continue it to a certain point and would restart from the original point of initiation; rubbing was not observed. When the entire body had been wiped, the juvenile entered a torpid state. To our knowledge, this is the first report of wiping behavior in a phyllomedusine metamorph, and may be the first for any anuran metamorph.

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Submitted by **HUGO ALAMILLO** and **JENNIFER B. PRAMUK** Division of Herpetology, KU Natural History Museum and Biodiversity Research Center, 1345 Jayhawk Boulevard, Lawrence, Kansas 66045-7561, USA; e-mail (HA): atelopus@ku.edu; (JBP): pramuk@ku.edu.

**PLETHODONTOHYLA TUBERATA** (NCN). **DEFENSIVE BEHAVIOR.** During a herpetological survey in January 1993 at Forestry Station of Manjakatempo (Ankaratra Massif, Antananarivo Province, Madagascar; 19°21'S, 47°18'E; ca. 1700 m), we observed a peculiar defensive behavior of the cophyline

microhylid *Plethodontohyla tuberata*. The individual (a male) was captured and handled to be photographed. Disturbed, it lowered the head, closed the eyes, and inflated the body. More or less simultaneously the frog extended the hindlimbs and, hanging on the inner side of the feet, he elevated the posterior part of the body, showing light spots, which are usually hidden in the inner surface of the thighs. The dorsal dermal glands exuded copious quantities of a thick, whitish, and sticky secretion. This secretion was visible on the back for several minutes, later losing its density and color. Such a defensive behavior is not associated with an overall aposematic coloration, although the inguinal spots in this and in related species (e.g., *P. laevipes*) have an evident aposematic significance. Such a defensive behavior has not been documented previously in the genus *Plethodontohyla*. However, a comparable behavior was reported for *Balebreviceps hillmani* from Ethiopia, (Largen and Drewes 1989, Trop. Zool. 2:13–30). Among the Malagasy microhylids, a similar antipredator strategy is known in the tomato frog, *Dyscophus antongili* (Pintak 1987, Salamandra 23[2/3]:106–121). However, in *D. antongili* inflation of the body and the production of a toxic secretion is accompanied by a clear aposematic (orange-red) coloration.

Submitted by **RICCARDO NINCHERI**, Via Empolese, 85/B, San Vincenzo a Torri, I-50020 Scandicci (Fi), Italy, and **FRANCO ANDREONE**, Sezione di Zoologia, Museo Regionale di Scienze Naturali, Via Giolitti, 36, I-10123 Torino, Italy; e-mail: frand@tin.it.

**PSEUDACRIS TRISERIATA TRISERIATA** (Western Chorus Frog). **REPRODUCTION.** Western chorus frogs (*Pseudacris triseriata triseriata*) are small, spring-breeding amphibians common to south-central Ontario (Weller and Oldham 1988, The Ontario Herpetofaunal Summary, Ontario Field Herpetologists, Cambridge, Ontario). There has been little information reported regarding their reproduction (Hecnar and Hecnar 1999, Herpetol. Rev. 30:38) despite their common occurrence. Herein I report observations of apparently communal chorus frog egg deposition.

In late April and early May 1997, 1998, and 1999, I observed chorus frog males calling from the periphery of what I propose was a site of communal egg deposition. The site was ca. 80 cm in diameter and contained 70 egg masses with eggs ranging from Gosner Stage 11–22 (Gosner 1960, Herpetologica 16:183–190). Egg masses were ca. 4–5 cm long and contained 20–50 eggs. These observations were made on the campus of Trent University (44°21'N, 78°17'W) in the Kawartha Region of south-central Ontario. The area is locally dominated by willow (*Salix* sp.) and contained numerous temporary vernal pools. No other calling congregations were observed at nearby pools and no egg masses were discovered in adjacent pools. This is the first report of potentially communal egg deposition for this species.

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Submitted by **M. ALEX SMITH**, Watershed Ecosystems Graduate Program, Trent University, Peterborough Ontario, K9J 7B8. Current address: Redpath Museum, McGill University, 859 Sherbrooke Street W., Montréal, PQ, H3A 2K6, Canada.