

Natural History Notes

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EUNECTES MURINUS GIGAS (Northern Green Anaconda). **CANNIBALISM.** There are very few reported instances of true intraspecific cannibalism amongst the boids (Mitchell 1986. Cannibalism in Reptiles: A Worldwide Review. SSAR Herpetol. Circ. No. 15:1-37) .

We removed a live female *Eunectes murinus gigas*, 1940 mm SVL (2320 mm TTL), from a nylon monofilament fisherman's gill net set above rapids, along the Guyanese bank of the Ireng River on the Guyana/Brazil border at Orinduik, western Guyana on 6 September 1993.

Shortly after capture the anaconda disgorged the recognizable remains of a smaller conspecific. Due to the advanced state of decomposition it was impossible to determine the exact length (ca. 1.5 m TTL), sex, or cause of death of the cannibalized specimen. The live individual was released. *Eunectes murinus* is a known predator of mammals, waterbirds, and caiman, but I have been unable to locate any reports of ophiophagy or cannibalism for this species in the wild. However, Holmstrom and Behler (1981. Zool. Garten NF, Jena 51 (5/6):353-356) and Neill and Allen (1962. Quart. J. Florida Acad. Sci. 25:73-75) reported ingestion of extraembryonic membranes and an undeveloped egg, and aborted embryos by adults in captivity. Live neonates were not eaten.

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