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RHINELLA HORRIBILIS (Mesoamerican Cane Toad) and **INCILIUS VALLICEPS** (Gulf Coast Toad). **INTERSPECIFIC AMPLEXUS**. In Mexico, interspecific amplexus in anurans has been poorly reported, and both its frequency and reproductive implications remain underexplored. Here, we document two interspecific amplexus events between *Rhinella horribilis* and

Incilius valliceps, which were recorded in southeastern Mexico. It is also the first known record of such reproductive interaction between these two species.

The first case was recorded in Las Choapas, Veracruz, Mexico (17.83177°N, 94.10251°W; WGS 84; 29 m elev.) on 08 June 2022 at 2200 h in a garden where the surrounding area was transformed into a tropical pine plantation with remnants of subperennial forest (Fig. 1). The second event occurred in the locality of Pablo García, Calakmul, Campeche, Mexico (18.5995°N, 90.1453°W; WGS 84; 95 m elev.) on 13 July 2025 at 1117 h in a fragment of subdeciduous forest surrounded by areas destined for agricultural and livestock activities (Fig. 2). In both cases, a male *I. valliceps* was observed in axillary amplexus with a female *R. horribilis*. Individuals were motionless on the ground, and the female jumped away only after we approached them.

Both species are common and sympatric in southeastern Mexico, sharing a breeding season during the rainy season (Lee 1996. The amphibians and reptiles of the Yucatán Peninsula. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, New York. 500 pp.). Factors such as a high density of individuals, similar acoustic signals, or reduced visibility can induce errors in specific recognition and encourage atypical reproductive behaviors (Ryan and Rand 2003. *Evol.* 57:2608–2618). Although generally unsuccessful from a reproductive point of view, this type of interaction can have important ecological implications, such as the energy expenditure of the male and the possible delay in the effective fertilization of the female. Records like this provide valuable information to understand the plasticity of anuran reproductive behavior in tropical environments.

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SCAPHIOPUS HOLBROOKII (Eastern Spadefoot). **ENDOPARASITES**. *Scaphiopus holbrookii* is a fossorial amphibian that ranges widely throughout the eastern United States (Conant and Collins 1998. *A Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians: Eastern and Central North America*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Boston, Massachusetts. 634 pp.) and whose diet consists of ground-dwelling arthropods (Jamieson and Trauth 1996. *J. Ark. Acad. Sci.* 50:75–78). Individuals generally stay near burrows when foraging and move very little outside of breeding and metamorph dispersal (Timm et al. 2014. *J. Herpetol.* 48:84–97). Information on endoparasites of wild populations of *S. holbrookii* is scarce.

Surveys were conducted in June and July 2023 at Village Creek State Park in Eastern Arkansas, USA (35.1702°N, 90.7069°W; WGS 84), and at Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park in Western Tennessee, USA (35.3407°N, 90.0417°W; WGS 84). *Scaphiopus holbrookii* were located by eyeshine between 2000 h and 2200 h, brought back to the lab, and placed into individual plastic containers (35.9 × 19.7 × 12.4 cm). Containers were sprayed with treated water to maintain the humidity levels and were covered with a pillowcase. Fecal samples were collected 1–4 d after the initial survey date, and spadefoots were returned to

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FIG. 1. Interspecific amplexus between *Rhinella horribilis* and *Incilius valliceps* in Las Choapas, Veracruz, Mexico.

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FIG. 2. Interspecific amplexus between *Rhinella horribilis* and *Incilius valliceps* in Pablo García, Calakmul, Campeche, Mexico.

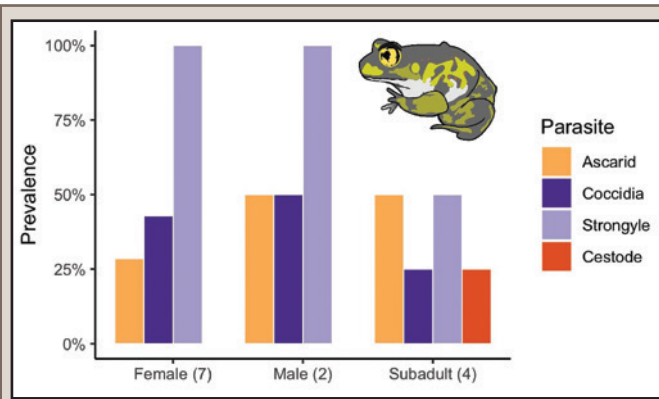


FIG. 1. Prevalence (proportion of individuals with at least one ova or oocyst) of four parasite groups in fecal samples from *Scaphiopus holbrookii* in Arkansas, USA (N = 13).

their original location after 4 d. Fecal parasite analysis was done via a salt floatation method adapted from Hayward et al. (2019. Functional Ecol. 33:1307–1320). Endoparasites were examined at 100× under a phase-contrast microscope (Olympus CX41, Tokyo, Japan).

We captured 14 *S. holbrookii*, with 13 individuals producing fecal samples. The mean SVL was 57.64 ± 3.02 mm, and the mean mass was 20.58 ± 2.87 g. We detected four parasite guilds in *S. holbrookii* fecal samples that occurred at varying prevalences: ascarids and strongyles (both Nematoda), cestodes (Platyhelminthes), and coccidia (Apicomplexa) (Fig. 1). Strongyles were detected in all 9 adult samples (Fig. 1), while cestodes were only found in one subadult individual (Fig. 1). Ascarids, strongyles, cestodes, and coccidia are common vertebrate endoparasites that are known to infect amphibians (e.g., Muzzall and Andrus 2014. Comp. Parasitol. 81:191–198). In *Scaphiopus hurterii* in southern Oklahoma, USA, ascarids, strongyles, and cestodes were observed via necropsies (McAllister et al. 2005. Texas J. Sci. 57:383–389).

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SCINAX ACUMINATUS (Mato Grosso Snouted Tree Frog).

PREDATION. *Falco sparverius* (American Kestrel) is one of the smallest birds of prey that exists, with a wide distribution in North and South America (White et al. 1994. Family Falconidae (falcons and caracaras), pp. 216–275. In del Hoyo et al. [eds], Handbook of the birds of the world, pp. 216–275. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona, Spain). It occurs in natural or agriculturally altered open grasslands (White et al. 1994, *op. cit.*). The diet of *F. sparverius* is composed mainly of arthropods, with few records of vertebrates (Cabral et al. 2006. Rev. Bras. Ornitol. 14:393–399). Among vertebrates, Squamata predominate (Cabral et al. 2006, *op. cit.*). *Scinax acuminatus* is a medium-sized, arboreal, nocturnal



FIG. 1. A *Falco sparverius* preying on a *Scinax acuminatus* in Brazil.

hyliid with a distribution in Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay, and the west and midwest regions of Brazil (Frost 2025. Amphibian Species of the World: An Online Reference. Version 6.1; <https://amphibiansoftheworld.amnh.org/>; 09 April 2025). *Scinax acuminatus* occurs in open areas where males call perched on bushes and branches that are at the edge of permanent and semi-permanent ponds (Prado et al. 2005. Amphibia-Reptilia 26:211–221; Prado and Haddad 2005. Herpetol. J. 15:181–189).

At 0710 h on a day in June 2021, in a region of the northern Pantanal of Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil (18.04204°S, 56.00889°W; WGS 84), that is known as Pantanal do Paiguás, I observed predation of an *S. acuminatus* by a *F. sparverius*. An adult male *F. sparverius* was perched on a power line, flew towards a dripping faucet, grabbed something, and flew off, landing on a fence. As I approached, it was clear that it was holding an adult *S. acuminatus* in its talons. The *F. sparverius* consumed the hind limbs first and soon afterwards ingested the rest of the *S. acuminatus* while it was still alive. To the best of my knowledge, this is the first record of predation of an *S. acuminatus* by an *F. sparverius*.

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SPEA INTERMONTANA (Great Basin Spadefoot). OVIPOSITION.

Spea intermontana occurs in ephemeral wetlands and shallow lake shores across the Great Basin of North America (Morey 2005. In Lannoo [ed.], Amphibian Declines: The Conservation Status of United States Species, pp. 517–519. University of California Press, Berkeley, California). This species is listed as Threatened under Canada's Species at Risk Act (COSEWIC 2019. Assessment and status report on the Great Basin spadefoot (*Spea intermontana*) in Canada 2019. Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada, Ottawa. xii + 69 pp.) and is a Species of Greatest Information Need in the State Wildlife Action Plan of Idaho, USA (Idaho Department of Fish and Game. 2024. Idaho State Wildlife Action Plan. 2023 rev. ed. Boise (ID): Idaho Department of Fish and Game. <https://idfg.idaho.gov/>). As a Species of Greatest Information Need, additional life-history information is necessary for the conservation and management of *S. intermontana* and its habitat.

Spea intermontana purportedly can have clutches ranging from 5 to 106 eggs (Ashpole et al. 2014. Northwestern Nat.