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PLESTIODON GILBERTI (Gilbert's Skink). **PREDATION.** *Plestiodon gilberti* typically occur in open grassy areas where burrows or rocks provide quick cover. They also occupy woodlands, streams, and other wetland areas (Behler and King 1979. The National Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Reptiles and Amphibians. Alfred A. Knopf, New York, New York. 744 pp.; Stebbins and McGinnis 2012. Field Guide to Amphibians and Reptiles of California. Univ. California Press, Berkeley. 538 pp.). Their association with wetland areas increases their risk of predation by wading birds, including Great Egrets (*Ardea alba*), which are opportunistic predators that take a variety of prey, such as crustaceans, insects, frogs, tadpoles, lizards, snakes, and small mammals. Great Egrets have been observed in the Florida Keys searching for *Anolis* lizards (McCrimmon et al. 2011. In A. Poole [ed.], The Birds of North America Online. Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, New York; doi: 10.2173/bna.570).

On 19 April 2013, while hiking along a trail approximately 675 m E of the San Joaquin River in Fresno Co., California, USA (36.8765°N, 119.7796°W; 90 m elev.), we observed a Great Egret in an upland area struggling with something in its beak. Upon initial observation the item appeared to be a snake but after further examination of photographs taken of the egret, the prey was identified as an adult *P. gilberti*. The skink was whipping its tail back and forth, forcing the bird to attempt a better grip. The bird tossed the lizard into the air and recaptured it with its beak, swallowing the skink whole in less than 30 sec. Although likely a common occurrence based on the similar habitat associations of these two species, this observation, to our knowledge, is the first to be reported.

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FIG. 1. Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) predated a Gilbert's Skink (*Plestiodon gilberti*) in Fresno Co., California

PSEUDOTRAPELUS SINAITUS (Sinai Agama). **ENDOPARASITES.** *Pseudotrapelus sinaitus* is widely distributed in the Middle East where it inhabits rocky desert habitats (Bar and Haimovitch 2011. A Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians of Israel. Pazbar Ltd, Herzliya, Israel. 245 pp.). To our knowledge there are no reports of endoparasites from this species. The purpose of this note is to establish the initial parasite list for *P. sinaitus*.

The body cavity of one female (SVL = 83 mm) *P. sinaitus* collected 23 April 1952 in Israel, Northern Negev Region and deposited in the Tel Aviv University Museum (TAUM), Israel as TAUM 688 was examined for endoparasites. A mid-ventral incision was made and the coelomic contents were examined under a dissecting microscope. Two nematodes were found. The stomach wall was punctured in preservation and some contents had spilled into the body cavity. Thus it is likely the infection site for the nematodes was the stomach. The nematodes were cleared on a glass slide in a drop of lactophenol, cover slipped, examined under a compound microscope, and identified as two immature ascarid nematodes. Voucher nematodes were deposited in the United States National Parasite Collection (USNPC), Beltsville, Maryland as USNPC 106981.

Ascaridoids commonly utilize vertebrates as intermediate hosts; development to the adult nematode occurs when the intermediate host (in this case a lizard) containing infective larvae is eaten by the definitive host (Anderson 2000. Nematode Parasites of Vertebrates, Their Development and Transmission, CABI Publishing, Oxon, UK. 650 pp.). *Pseudotrapelus sinaitus* represents a new host record for larval ascarid nematodes.

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PSEUDOTRAPELUS SINAITUS (Sinai Agama). **REPRODUCTION.** *Pseudotrapelus sinaitus* is widely distributed in the Middle East and is known from Libya, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Arabian Peninsula, U.A.E., Oman, Sudan, Ethiopia, and Eritrea where it inhabits rocky desert habitats (Bar and Haimovitch 2011. A Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians of Israel. Pazbar Ltd, Herzliya, Israel. 245 pp.). There is anecdotal information on its reproduction found in Bar and Haimovitch (*op. cit.*; Disi et al. 2001. Amphibians and Reptiles of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, An Atlas and Field Guide. Edition Chimaira, Frankfurt am Main, Germany. 408 pp.; Schleich et al. 1996. Amphibians and Reptiles of North Africa. Koeltz Scientific Publications, Koenigstein, Germany. 630 pp.), indicating a spring-summer breeding season with clutches of 5–9 eggs produced. In this note I provide additional information on *P. sinaitus* reproduction from a histological examination of gonads from museum specimens.

A sample of 24 *P. sinaitus* deposited in the Zoological Museum of the Department of Zoology, Tel Aviv University (TAUM), Tel Aviv, Israel, was examined. The sample consisted of 13 males (mean SVL = 78.2 mm ± 4.3 SD, range = 71–83 mm), 10 females (mean SVL = 75.3 mm ± 5.1 SD, range = 68–73 mm), and one juvenile female (SVL = 54 mm) collected 1941–1958 in Israel (32.01587°N, 34.78740°E). Vouchers utilized in this study include: