pressing it to the ground (e.g., "head shove," "head raise," or "body twist" described by Beck 1990, *op. cit.*), behaviors that are common in combat rituals. The male repeatedly initiated a "dorsal straddle" (a typical male-male combat behavior; Fig 1A), but the female never did so. In previous observations of male-male combat by *H. suspectum*, both lizards actively participated in dominant behaviors, whereas in the encounter described herein only one lizard, the male, seemed interested in maintaining a superior position or initiating repeated contact. A majority of time was spent with the male in pursuit of the female.

We thank D. E. Swann for reviewing this manuscript.

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***LARUTIA TRIFASCIATA* (Three-banded Larut Skink). ENDOPARASITE.** *Larutia trifasciata* is known from parts of the Banjaran Timur and the Cameron Highlands, Malaysia (Grismer 2011. Lizards of Peninsular Malaysia, Singapore and their Adjacent Archipelagos. Edition Chimaira, Frankfurt am Main. 728 pp.). One *L. trifasciata* (SVL = 148 mm) was collected in West Malaysia, Pahang, Cameron Highlands (4.03333°N, 101.36666°E) 25 June 2008 and deposited in the herpetology collection of La Sierra University (LSUHC), Riverside, California as LSUHC 9077. In this note we establish the initial helminth list for *L. trifasciata*.

A midventral incision was made in one *L. trifasciata*. The digestive tract was removed, opened, and the contents were examined for helminths utilizing a dissecting microscope. One nematode was found in the small intestine. It was placed on a microscope slide, cleared in lactophenol, coverslipped, studied under a compound microscope and identified as *Orneoascaris sandoshami*. The sample of *O. sandoshami* was deposited in the Howard W. Manter Laboratory of Parasitology (HWML) University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Lincoln, USA as HWML 64637.

Orneoascaris sandoshami was previously reported in *Megophrys montana* (Megophryidae) (Sprent 1985. An. Mus. Hum. Comp. 60:33–35; Baker 1987. Mem. Univ. Newfoundland, Occas. Pap. Biol. 11:1–325). *Orneoascaris sandoshami* in *L. trifasciata* is a new host record.

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***PLESTIODON EGREGIUS ONOCREPIS* (Peninsula Mole Skink). ALBINISM.** On 30 June 2014, we trapped an amelanistic hatchling *Plestiodon egregius onocrepis* (28 mm SVL) along a drift fence in sandhill habitat in Ocala National Forest, Marion Co., Florida, USA (29.3819°N, 81.7929°W, WGS84; 10 m elev.). Albinism has been reported in *P. fasciatus* (Brungs 1960. Copeia 1960:369–370) and *P. reynoldsi* (Catenazzi et al. 2008. Herpetol. Rev. 39:228) but not in *P. egregius*. Most of the head and sides of the body were pink-colored, the dorsum was a paler pink, and the labial scales were white. The short dorsolateral stripes that ran from the pale snout were cream-colored, the lower hind legs and feet were pale orange, and the irises of the eye were red. The tail transitioned from pale pink to light orange, with the distal half being a reddish pink color (the tip was missing). Some internal organs were faintly visible through its venter and sides. A digital color photograph is deposited in the Florida Museum of Natural History (UF 173267).

FIG. 1. Amelanistic (top) and normal (bottom) phenotype *Plestiodon egregius onocrepis* hatchlings from the same site in Ocala National Forest, Marion Co., Florida, USA.

Although albinism is generally considered a deleterious trait because of increased visibility to predators, this may not be the case for this species because of its semifossorial habits. The brown coloration of the normal phenotype blends with fallen leaves, whereas the light coloration of the amelanistic specimen blends with the sand of its upland habitat (Fig. 1). The colorful tail, which probably distracts potential predators, was slightly less vivid in the amelanistic specimen than in another hatchling from the same site (Fig. 1), but there is individual and ontogenetic variation in tail coloration.

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***PLESTIODON GILBERTI* (Gilbert's Skink). PREDATION.** *Plestiodon gilberti* occurs in a variety of habitats including grasslands, broken chaparral, oak woodlands, and open pine forests (Stebbins and McGinnis 2012. Field Guide to Amphibians and Reptiles of California. University of California Press, Berkeley. 538 pp.). In the Sierra Nevada foothills of California the lizard occurs mainly in the Blue Oak zone and the Blue Oak-Gray Pine zone. Aerial predators, such as Northern Pygmy-Owls (*Glaucidium gnoma*; Sibley 2014. The Sibley Guide to Birds, 2nd ed. Alfred A. Knopf, New York, New York. 599 pp.), are opportunistic

FIG. 1. Northern Pygmy-Owl carrying *Plestiodon gilberti* into a tree cavity.

diurnal predators that takes a variety of mammal, bird, insect, and reptile prey. Documented reptile prey items include Smooth-headed Alligator Lizard (*Gerrhonotus liocephalus*), Eastern Fence Lizard (*Sceloporus undulatus*), Yarrow's Spiny Lizard (*S. jarrovii*), Striped Plateau Lizard (*S. virgatus*), Ornate Tree Lizard (*Urosaurus ornatus*), whiptail lizard (*Aspidoscelis* sp.), and skinks (*Plestiodon* spp.; Holt and Petersen 2000. *In* Poole [ed.], The Birds of North America Online. Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, New York; Duncan et al. 2003. Southwest. Nat. 48:218–222). Although *Plestiodon* have been reported previously as prey of the Northern Pygmy-Owl, we provide the first observation, to our knowledge, of the owl predating *P. gilberti*.

On 23 March 2014, a Northern Pygmy-Owl pair was observed on the summit of Black Mountain in eastern Fresno Co., California, USA (37.0130052°N, 119.4523537°W; 1096 m elev.). The female owl was carrying a partially-eaten *P. gilberti*. Eventually she flew into a cavity within a nearby oak (*Quercus* sp.) tree with the skink (Fig. 1). A male Northern Pygmy-Owl followed her into the cavity and they both exited within 5 minutes without the skink. The skink was likely part of a pre-nesting courtship ritual and further observation over the next few weeks revealed that the female had not produced offspring and the skink was likely consumed by the adults.

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***PODARCIS SICULA* (Italian Wall Lizard). HABITAT, INVASION OF SUBURBAN NEW ENGLAND.** *Podarcis sicula* is a widespread invader in North America (Burke and Ner 2005. Northeast. Nat. 12:349–360). In New York State, multiple populations have been documented on Long Island, most commonly in human-dominated urban and suburban environments (Gossweiler 1975. Copeia 1975:584–585; Burke and Ner 2005, *op. cit.;* Fig. 1A). We documented the first populations of *P. sicula* in Connecticut (Donihue et al. 2014. Herpetol. Rev. 45[4]:661–662), and here describe their habitat use and first evidence for their use of railroad tracks as a conduit for northward invasion.

On 9 July 2014, in response to a photo sent to the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), we surveyed multiple sites (Fig. 1B) in Greenwich, Fairfield Co., Connecticut, USA, for *P. sicula*. After talking with homeowners and surveying potential habitat for six hours, we (CMD and MRL) found five individuals spread across three sites (Site 1: three individuals, Site 3: one individual, Site 4: one individual) and were shown a photo of one additional individual at Site 2. All lizards were found in residential backyards within 10 m of railroad tracks, though high-quality habitats further from tracks were also surveyed. At each site lizards were seen basking on stonewalls or in undergrowth in the immediate vicinity of similar perches (Fig. 2A). We also found lizards under miscellaneous plastic and metal objects, and homeowner accounts indicate that lizards often use yard vegetation, metal and wood infrastructure, and garden pots for habitat. On a subsequent visit (29 August 2014) to Site 1, we observed 20 young-of-the-year juveniles, and six adult *P. sicula* after one hour of searching (four juveniles added as specimens to the Yale Peabody Museum YPM HERR.019332–019335). Our observations suggest that *P. sicula* may be moving into New England via railroad tracks and capitalizing on suburban backyards.

According to local landowners, *P. sicula* are seen in abundance (more than five per backyard) and have been present in

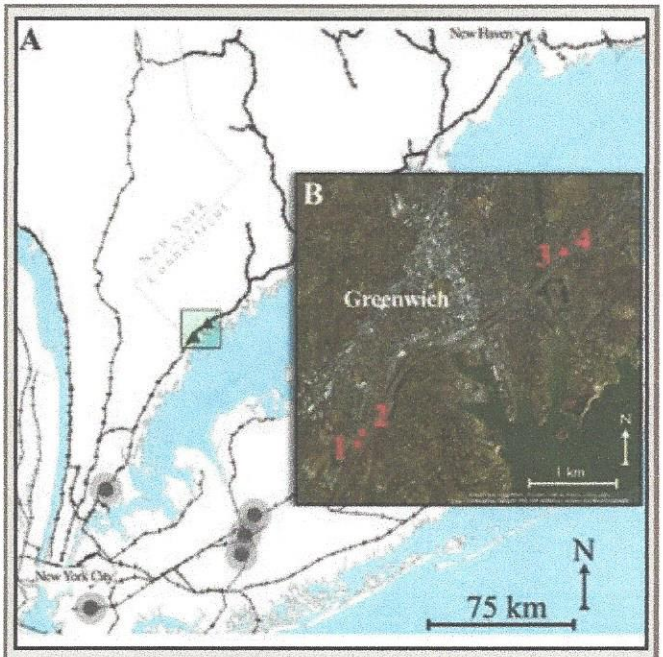

FIG. 1. Map of A) Long Island Sound region with our *P. sicula* sightings in Connecticut (triangles) and previously-reported regions (grey circles) of greater New York City with *P. sicula* populations (Gossweler 1975, *op. cit.*; Burke and Mercurio 2002. Am. Midl. Nat. 147:368–375; Burke and Ner 2005, *op. cit.*; Kolbe et al. 2013. Biol. Invasions 15:775–783. Inset B) details the four new suburban *P. sicula* sites along train tracks in Greenwich, Connecticut, USA.