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LEIOCEPHALUS CARINATUS ARMOURI (Northern Curly-tailed). ENTANGLEMENT IN HUMAN-MADE MATERIALS

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LEIOCEPHALUS CARINATUS ARMOURI (Northern Curly-tailed Lizard). **ENTANGLEMENT IN HUMAN-MADE MATERIALS.** Reports exist of reptiles caught in persistent, man-made debris. These materials result in deformity or death to freshwater turtles (Dietz and Ferri 2003. Herpetol. Rev. 34:56; McLeod 1994. Herpetol. Rev. 25:116–117; Odum 1985. Herpetol. Rev. 16:113) or tortoises (Engeman et al. 2004. Herpetol. Rev. 35:54–55); entanglement, injury, and death to upland snakes (see review in Stuart et al. 2001. Herpetol. Rev. 32:162–164); and, entanglement and death to desert lizards (Stuart et al., *loc cit.*). Here we add to these reports with an observation of *Leiocephalus carinatus armouri* found entangled in a metal ring.

At ca. 0830 h, 26 October 2003, a sunny day with a temperature ca. 25°C, one of us (CLD) observed an adult (71.0 mm SVL) *L. c. armouri* with a metal ring (22 mm exterior diameter, ca. 17–18 mm interior diameter) caught around its body just forward of the

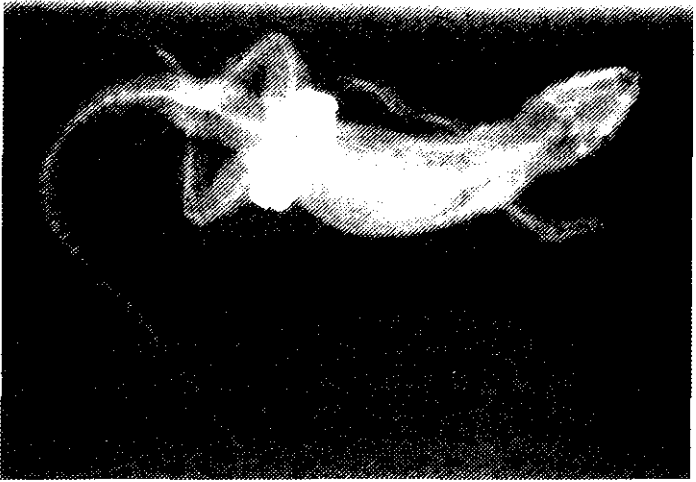


FIG. 1. Radiograph of *Leiocephalus carinatus armouri* entangled in a metal ring.

pelvic girdle (Fig. 1). The site was the parking lot of “Loggerhead Plaza” (14255 US Highway 1 in Juno Beach [Palm Beach Co.], Florida). The town of Juno Beach is within a relatively contiguous 90 km of the surveyed, occupied range of this exotic species in Florida (Smith and Engeman 2003. Florida Park Service Tech. Rep., Hobe Sound, Florida; Smith et al. *In press*. International Biodeterioration and Biodegradation).

The lizard was first observed basking on a curb in the parking lot. Under normal conditions, *L. c. armouri* is very fast fleeing when making an escape to a burrow or other refugium (Smith and Engeman, *loc. cit.*; Meshaka et al. 2004. The Exotic Amphibians and Reptiles of Florida, Krieger Publishing Company, Malabar, Florida. 166 pp.). Although this lizard attempted to elude capture, mobility was hindered by the metal ring, and it was unable to fully extend its hind legs, causing it to drag the distal portion of its body.

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