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## LEIOCEPHALUS CARINATUS ARMOURI (Northern Curlytailed Lizard)

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**LEIOCEPHALUS CARINATUS ARMOURI** (Northern Curly-tailed Lizard). **PREDATION.** Indigenous species preying on exotic herpetofauna in Florida might be an important source of mortality (Butterfield et al. 1997. *In* Simberloff et al. [eds.], *Strangers in Paradise*, pp. 123–138, Island Press, Washington, DC). The Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*) feeds mainly on small fish, invertebrates (mostly crustaceans), and small amphibians (Rodgers and Smith 1995. *In* Poole and Gill [eds.], *The Birds of North America*, Species Account No. 145, The Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and The American Ornithologists' Union, Washington, DC). Here, we report an observation of predation by the Little Blue Heron on *Leiocephalus carinatus armouri*, an exotic species in Florida (Weigl et al. 1969. *Copeia* 1969:841–842).

At ca. 1325 h on 19 February 2003, a hazy-sunny day with a temperature ca. 27°C. HTS observed a juvenile (white plumage) Little Blue Heron prey on a small (4–5 cm SVL) *L. c. armouri* on a concrete seawall in Martin County. This site is adjacent to the 1999 county record location (Hauge and Butterfield 2000. *Herpetol. Rev.* 31:53), but has been occupied since at least 1994 (Smith and Engeman 2002. *Florida Field Nat.* 30:132–133) and is at the northern end of a relatively contiguous 90 km surveyed range of this species (Smith et al., *in press*. *International Biodeterioration and Biodegradation*). The heron was foraging on top of the seawall using the “walk slow” behavior (Rodgers 1983. *Colonial*

Waterbirds 6:11–23), when it saw the lizard (also on top of the seawall) dart into a vertical crevice. In 10–15 seconds of slow approach, the heron waved its head and neck slowly in a wide side to side sweep. When it reached a position over the crevice, the heron plucked the lizard out with one strike and swallowed it in < 10 sec.

The event was noteworthy because it involved a juvenile wading bird foraging in a terrestrial situation and preying on the exotic *L. c. armouri*. Although the Little Blue Heron occasionally hunts on land, most time is spent methodically foraging in shallow water (Willard 1977. Condor 79:462–470; Rodgers and Smith, *op. cit.*). Although herons and egrets have been known to capture and consume exotic lizards in terrestrial situations (Franz 2001. Herpetol. Rev. 32:253), and *L. carinatus* has been the subject of other unusual predation events (Smith and Engeman, *in press*. Herpetol. Rev.), we know of no similar wading bird depredation reports for *L. carinatus* in the literature.

Submitted by **HENRY T. SMITH**, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Park Service, 13798 S.E. Federal Highway, Hobe Sound, Florida 33455, USA, and **RICHARD M. ENGEMAN**, National Wildlife Research Center, 4101 LaPorte Ave., Fort Collins, Colorado 80521-2154, USA (e-mail: Richard.m.engeman@aphis.usda.gov).

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