

they share with the dart-poison frogs (Dendrobatidae). I report observations of a successful predation on *M. laevigata* by the cordylid lizard *Zonosaurus madagascariensis*, and an aborted predation by the boa *Boa madagascariensis*. Both observations involved frogs from marked populations on the island of Nosy Mangabe, Toamasina province, Northeastern Madagascar.

On 26 Feb 1997, I observed an adult zonosaur with a mantella in its mouth. The lizard tossed the frog into the leaf litter and proceeded to lick its lips, and rub its snout and entire head on litter and roots, for ten minutes. The discarded frog appeared to be dead. The lizard found the frog corpse and picked it up in its mouth again, shaking it back and forth furiously, and then dropped it. This sequence was repeated three more times. The fifth time the lizard was observed picking up the *M. laevigata* corpse, it ate it head first, leaving the frog's legs sticking out of its mouth while it rubbed its snout on the ground. I was unable to catch the zonosaur to monitor its health after this predation.

On 12 March 1997, during a courtship between two *M. laevigata*, a boa came out from under the leaf litter and captured the female in its mouth. The male *M. laevigata* dove under the leaf litter, and all frog calling and activity in the area stopped. The snake held the frog in its mouth, occasionally appearing to masticate. After twenty minutes, the snake suddenly released the frog, thrusting its open mouth forward to propel the frog onto the litter, and disappeared back under the leaves. The frog was bloodied on her dorsum and head, but hopped away. The next day the boa had left the area, and was not seen again before my departure in early May. On 20 March, the female frog was observed in courtship again, within 5 cm of where she was attacked by the boa. She was observed in courtship six more times between 20 March and 13 April, two of which resulted in oviposition. On April 13, she was observed to deposit a trophic egg for a tadpole, presumably hers, in a well where she had been seen in courtship on multiple occasions. The aborted predation by the boa thus appeared to have no lasting effects on her health or reproductive success.

Mantella laevigata appear to be severely distasteful to both zonosaurus and boas, which probably explains the usual cohabitation of the densely populated zonosaurus and *M. laevigata*, even though zonosaurus prey on other sympatric frog species.

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MANTELLA LAEVIGATA (Climbing Mantella). **ABORTED PREDATION.** Predation on members of the genus *Mantella* is probably rare, due to the presence of toxic skin alkaloids, which