***TERRAPENE ORNATA* (Ornate Box Turtle). DIET.** *Terrapene ornata* occurs across most of the southern Great Plains of central USA, from southeastern Wyoming east to western Indiana and south to northern Mexico (Hammerson 1999. Amphibians and Reptiles in Colorado. Second Edition. University Press of Colorado & Colorado Division of Wildlife, Niwot, Colorado. xxvi + 484 pp.). Throughout its range, *T. ornata* utilizes a variety of habitats, ranging from grasslands to arid deserts (Legler 1960. Univ. Kansas Publ., Mus. Nat. Hist. 11:527–669). As a habitat generalist that occupies a large range in the USA, *T. ornata* has access to a wide range of potential prey items (Ernst and Lovich 2009. Turtles of the United States and Canada. Second Edition. The Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, Maryland. xii + 827 pp.). The diet of *T. ornata* primarily consists of insects, especially beetles, caterpillars, and grasshoppers (Legler 1960, *op. cit.*). Various vertebrates have also been reported as diet items, including mammals (e.g., Blair 1976. Southwest. Nat. 21:89–103; Forsberg and Geluso 2017. Herpetol. Rev. 48:429), birds (e.g., Brown and Brown 2008. Herpetol. Rev. 39:464), reptiles (e.g., Norris and Zweifel 1950. Nat. Hist. Misc. 58:1–4), amphibians (e.g., Hill and Wilcoxen 2005. Herpetol. Rev. 36:443), and fish (e.g., Metcalf and Metcalf 1970. Trans. Kansas Acad. Sci. 73:96–117), with most being consumed as carrion (Ernst and Lovich 2009, *op. cit.*). Two species of snakes have been reported to be consumed by *T. ornata* as carrion: *Thamnophis sirtalis* (Kolbe 1998. Herpetol. Rev. 29:235), and more recently, *Pituophis catenifer* (Davis and Davis 2024. Herpetol. Rev. 55:88–89). An additional report by Metcalf and Metcalf (1970, *op. cit.*) found that a female *T. ornata* deviated along its line of travel to inspect a decomposing snake, but they did not comment on the species of snake nor whether any scavenging occurred. Here, we report an additional snake scavenged by *T. ornata*.

On 4 July 2024, at 1830 h, CJM found an adult female *T. ornata* scavenging on a road-killed juvenile *Coluber constrictor* on CO Hwy 101, ca. 4.1 rd km south of the jct with Co Rd Z, Bent County, Colorado, USA (37.93220°N, 103.19830°W; WGS 84; Fig. 1). When approached, the *T. ornata* retracted its head and forelimbs into its shell but continued to hold the *C. constrictor* in its mouth. The *C. constrictor* was likely hit earlier in the day, and in addition to missing its head and anterior portion of its body, numerous ants were also observed scavenging it (Fig. 1). After making this observation and taking photographs, the *T. ornata* was moved from the road with the *C. constrictor* still hanging from its mouth. This observation, coupled with other recent reports (e.g., Davis and Davis 2024, *op. cit.*), suggests that road-killed snakes may be an opportunistic source of prey for *T. ornata*; however, the costs of foraging on roadways are high (i.e., road mortality; Cureton and Deaton 2012. J. Wildl. Manag. 76:1047–1052). *Terrapene ornata* is sympatric with *C. constrictor* over a considerable portion of its range east of the Rocky Mountains, and incidents of scavenginmay occur with more frequency than what has been reported. This observation was deposited at the Biodiversity Collections, The University of Texas at Austin (TNHC 117509; photo voucher). To the best of our knowledge, this represents the first report of *T. ornata* scavenging on *C. constrictor* and the third report of *T. ornata* feeding on a road-killed snake.

PHOTO BY CADEN J. MYERS

FIG. 1. Adult female *Terrapene ornata* found scavenging a road-killed juvenile *Coluber constrictor* in Bent County, Colorado, USA.

All work was conducted under a Colorado Parks and Wildlife Herptile Scientific Collection License (#3090647036). We thank T. LaDuc for accessioning this photograph and members of the Davis Herpetology Lab for helpful comments on this note.

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CROCODYLIA — CROCODILIANS

***ALLIGATOR MISSISSIPPIENSIS* (American Alligator). DIET.** *Alligator mississippiensis* is a large generalist predator, reaching a total length of up to 4.5 m (Brunell et al. 2015. Southeast. Nat. 14:38–43). The species is known to feed on a diverse array of invertebrate and vertebrate prey (Wolfe et al. 1987. Northeast Gulf Sci. 9:1–8; Shoop and Ruckdeschel 1990. Am. Midl. Nat. 2:407–412; Elsey et al. 1992. Proc. Annu. Conf. Southeast. Assoc. Fish Wildl. Agen. 46:57–66, and references therein). Mammals are an important component of *A. mississippiensis* diet, with at least 20 species identified from stomach contents, scat, or direct feeding observations (Elsey et al. 1992, *op. cit.*; Rainwater et al. 2022. Herpetol. Rev. 53:491–493). That said, reports of marine mammals in the diet of *A. mississippiensis* are sparse (Rainwater et al. 2024. Herpetol. Rev. 55:433–434). Here, we report the scavenging and consumption of an Atlantic Bottlenose Dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) carcass by *A. mississippiensis* in Vermilion Parish, Louisiana, USA.

On the morning of 8 April 2025, at 0938 h, while traveling in an airboat along the shore of Vermilion Bay, we observed a large adult *A. mississippiensis* (ca. 3.4 m total length) consuming an unidentified carcass (29.7025°N, 92.1722°W; WGS 84; 1 m elev.). We maneuvered the boat closer to the shore to identify the carcass, and when we were ca. 10 m away, the alligator released the carcass, moved into shallow water, and faced the approaching airboat (Fig. 1A). When the airboat closed to within 4 m of the alligator, the animal moved into deeper water, submerged, and disappeared from view, leaving the carcass behind. We photographed and tentatively identified the carcass as that of *T. truncatus* (Fig. 1B). Although the carcass was in an advanced state of decomposition (ca. Stage 3; Payne 1965. Ecology 46:562–602), we confirmed the identity based on the rostrum, skin, and shape of the peduncle (Fig. 1B). We then departed the scene but returned at ca. 1200 h and found the alligator back at the carcass. The alligator remained beside