GALLOTIA GALLOTI (Canary Islands Lizard). **NECTAR FEEDING**. All four species of *Gallotia* (Lacertidae) currently living in the Canary Islands have been reported to eat a substantial amount of vegetable food (Kreffl 1950. Zool. Anz. 145(Suppl.):426–444; Molina-Borja 1991. Vieraea 20:1–9; Molina-Borja and Barquin 1986. Vieraea 16:233–236; Naranjo et al. 1991. Rev. Esp. Herp. 6:45–48). Plant parts consumed include leaves, flowers, flower buds, fruits and seeds, but there are no published accounts of any *Gallotia* feeding on nectar. In fact, observations of nectarivory in lizards are scarce and only a handful of species, mostly geckos, are known to regularly visit flowers to feed on nectar (Whitaker 1987. N. Z. J. Bot. 25:315–328). Here we report observations of nectar feeding in *G. galloti*, a medium-size lacertid (145 mm maximum SVL) inhabiting the westernmost islands of the Canarian archipelago (Barbadillo 1987. La Guia de Incafo de los Anfibios y Reptiles de la Peninsula Iberica, Islas Baleares y Canarias. Incafo, Madrid, 694 pp.).

Observations were conducted in Loro Parque, a privately owned zoological park located in the Punta Brava district of Puerto de la Cruz (Tenerife, Canary Islands). *Gallotia galloti* occur at relatively high densities throughout the park, but they are most conspicuous alongside the walkways in plots dominated by cacti and palm trees (*Phoenix* sp.), with no ground cover. The lizards are relatively undisturbed and tolerate close-range inspection by an observer. Adult *G. galloti* were seen carrying dates and other fruit in their mouths and occasionally picking up handouts provided by the visitors. Between 1400 and 1500 h on 23 August 1992 we noticed several *G. galloti* climbing through a hedgerow of crown of thorns (*Euphorbia milii* (= *E. splendens*), Euphorbiaceae), a thorned, woody-stemmed spurge from Madagascar. As many as five lizards were observed clinging to the shrubs, some ca. 50 cm from the

ground, sequentially lapping the nectar from several flowers. All the lizards foraging for nectar were juveniles; the dense branching and the sharp thorns may limit access to the flowers to all but the smallest individuals. Although *E. milii* is an exotic ornamental, the Canarian flora is rich in indigenous Euphorbiaceae that may be exploited as a natural source of nectar. Previous reports described adults of *G. galloti* feeding on leaves and flowers of *Euphorbia balsamifera* (Molina-Borja 1981. Doñana, Acta Vertebrata 8:43–78), adult *G. stehlini* from the island of Gran Canaria eating buds of *E. obtusifolia* and dry leaves of *Ricinus comunis* (Molina-Borja 1986. Vieraea 16:23–26), and juvenile *G. simonyi* from El Hierro Island taking flowers of *E. obtusifolia* (Machado 1985. Bonn. Zool. Beitr. 36:429–470).

Most observations of lizard nectarivory have occurred on islands (e.g., geckos: Whitaker, *op. cit.*; *Cnemidophorus murinus:* Dearing 1993. J. Herpetol. 27:111–114). Among lacertids, nectar feeding has been described in *Podarcis dugesii*, the Madeiran lizard (Elvers 1978. Botaniska Notiser 131:159–160), and *P. lilfordi* from Nitge (Menorca, Balearic Islands) (Brown et al. 1992. Oecologia 91:500–504). This note documents nectar feeding in another insular lizard species and reiterates the ability of *Gallotia galloti* to exploit a variety of food sources. We thank Matt Kramer, Statistical Research Division, U.S. Bureau of the Census, for his comments on this manuscript.

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