Fig. 1. Northern Pygmy-Owl carrying *Plestiodon gilberti* into a tree cavity.

diurnal predators that takes a variety of mammal, bird, insect, and reptile prey. Documented reptile prey items include Smooth-headed Alligator Lizard (*Gerrhonotus liocephalus*), Eastern Fence Lizard (*Sceloporus undulatus*), Yarrow's Spiny Lizard (*S. jarrovii*), Striped Plateau Lizard (*S. virgatus*), Ornate Tree Lizard (*Urosaurus ornatus*), whiptail lizard (*Aspidoscelis* sp.), and skinks (*Plestiodon* spp.; Holt and Petersen 2000. *In* Poole [ed.], The Birds of North America Online. Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, New York; Duncan et al. 2003. Southwest. Nat. 48:218–222). Although *Plestiodon* have been reported previously as prey of the Northern Pygmy-Owl, we provide the first observation, to our knowledge, of the owl predating *P. gilberti*.

On 23 March 2014, a Northern Pygmy-Owl pair was observed on the summit of Black Mountain in eastern Fresno Co., California, USA (37.0130052°N, 119.4523537°W; 1096 m elev.). The female owl was carrying a partially-eaten *P. gilberti*. Eventually she flew into a cavity within a nearby oak (*Quercus* sp.) tree with the skink (Fig. 1). A male Northern Pygmy-Owl followed her into the cavity and they both exited within 5 minutes without the skink. The skink was likely part of a pre-nesting courtship ritual and further observation over the next few weeks revealed that the female had not produced offspring and the skink was likely consumed by the adults.

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***PODARCIS SICULA* (Italian Wall Lizard). HABITAT, INVASION OF SUBURBAN NEW ENGLAND.** *Podarcis sicula* is a widespread invader in North America (Burke and Ner 2005. Northeast. Nat. 12:349–360). In New York State, multiple populations have been documented on Long Island, most commonly in human-dominated urban and suburban environments (Gossweiler 1975. Copeia 1975:584–585; Burke and Ner 2005, *op. cit.;* Fig. 1A). We documented the first populations of *P. sicula* in Connecticut (Donihue et al. 2014. Herpetol. Rev. 45[4]:661–662), and here describe their habitat use and first evidence for their use of railroad tracks as a conduit for northward invasion.

On 9 July 2014, in response to a photo sent to the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), we surveyed multiple sites (Fig. 1B) in Greenwich, Fairfield Co., Connecticut, USA, for *P. sicula*. After talking with homeowners and surveying potential habitat for six hours, we (CMD and MRL) found five individuals spread across three sites (Site 1: three individuals, Site 3: one individual, Site 4: one individual) and were shown a photo of one additional individual at Site 2. All lizards were found in residential backyards within 10 m of railroad tracks, though high-quality habitats further from tracks were also surveyed. At each site lizards were seen basking on stonewalls or in undergrowth in the immediate vicinity of similar perches (Fig. 2A). We also found lizards under miscellaneous plastic and metal objects, and homeowner accounts indicate that lizards often use yard vegetation, metal and wood infrastructure, and garden pots for habitat. On a subsequent visit (29 August 2014) to Site 1, we observed 20 young-of-the-year juveniles, and six adult *P. sicula* after one hour of searching (four juveniles added as specimens to the Yale Peabody Museum YPM HERR.019332–019335). Our observations suggest that *P. sicula* may be moving into New England via railroad tracks and capitalizing on suburban backyards.

According to local landowners, *P. sicula* are seen in abundance (more than five per backyard) and have been present in

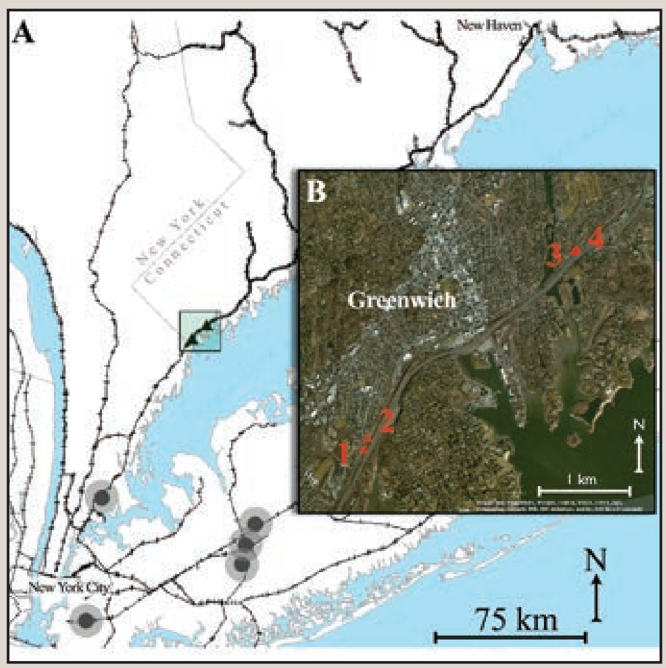

Fig. 1. Map of A) Long Island Sound region with our *P. sicula* sightings in Connecticut (triangles) and previously-reported regions (grey circles) of greater New York City with *P. sicula* populations (Gossweler 1975, *op. cit.*; Burke and Mercurio 2002. Am. Midl. Nat. 147:368–375; Burke and Ner 2005, *op. cit.*; Kolbe et al. 2013. Biol. Invasions 15:775–783. Inset B) details the four new suburban *P. sicula* sites along train tracks in Greenwich, Connecticut, USA.

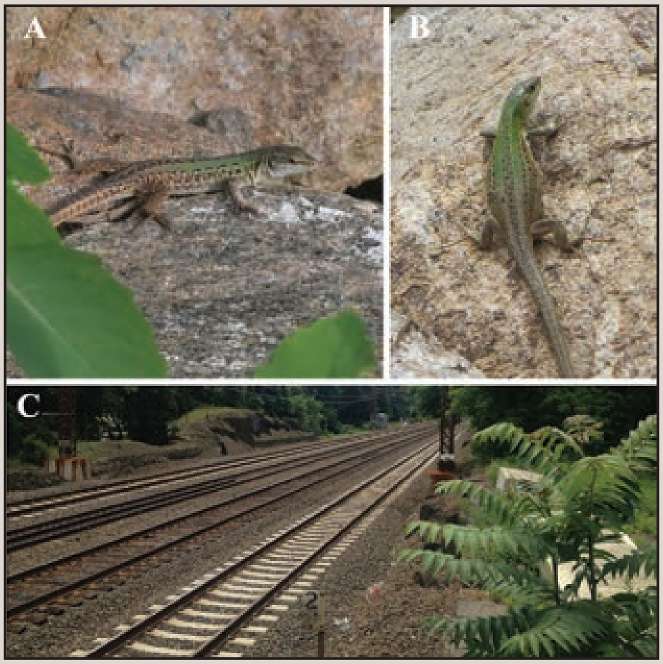

FIG. 2. A) *Podarcis sicula* basking on a rock wall at site 3. This specimen was deposited in the Yale Peabody Museum (YPM HERR.019238). B) A gravid female *P. sicula* at site 3 (photograph courtesy of F. Ceci Jr.). C) Train tracks (adjacent to site A) are the hypothesized avenue of dispersal of *P. sicula* into Connecticut.

this area for multiple years (three years at site 2, two years at site 3) suggesting that they may have reached further north in the state by now. Sites 2 and 3 are separated by 3.04 km of train track, so assuming they were sighted the first summer of their arrival, and train tracks are their conduit, *P. sicula* could very reasonably have already reached Stamford, a dense urban area. Although it is possible that the Connecticut *P. sicula* populations are a result of recent introductions, we think it much more likely that railroads act as a dispersal route from New York City; closely related lacertids are known to use tracks in their native European range (Kühnel 2008. *In* Mitchell et al. [eds.], Urban Herpetology, pp. 171–174. Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles, Salt Lake City, Utah). Existing New York populations are within close proximity of train tracks leading directly to these Connecticut backyards (Fig. 1a). As this represents *P. sicula*'s northernmost occurrence, how they survive the cold New England winters is an important question. The railroad tracks also provide a potential explanation as portions of track are heated throughout the winter to prevent snow and ice buildup. Burrowing in the scree under these heated portions may provide protection from both predators and the elements. Urban areas are also well-documented heat-islands, potentially also providing warm refuges in winter. The extent to which species like *P. sicula* are adapting to live in urban and suburban environments is an emerging question for future study (Donihue and Lambert 2014. AMBIO 44:194–203).

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***SCELOPORUS JARROVII* (Yarrow's Spiny Lizard) and *SCELOPORUS POINSETTII* (Crevice Spiny Lizard). PREFERRED BODY TEMPERATURE.** Data on preferred body temperature (T_p) is quite rare (Sinervo et al. 2010. Science 328:894–899). According to Huey (1982. *In* Gans and Pough [eds.], Biology of the Reptilia, Vol. 12, Physiology C, pp. 25–91. Academic Press, New York) measurement in a laboratory thermal gradient under standard conditions is required. The T_p that a lizard voluntarily selects in a laboratory thermal gradient provides a reasonable estimate of what a lizard would attain in the wild with a minimum of associated costs in absence of constraints (biotic and abiotic factors) for thermoregulation (Huey and Slatkin 1976. Q. Rev. Biol. 51:363–384; Pough and Gans 1982. *In* Gans and Pough [eds.], Biology of Reptiles, Vol. 12, pp. 17–23. Academic Press, New York). *Sceloporus jarrovii* and *S. poinsettii* are geographically widespread viviparous lizards that exhibit considerable variation in habitats occupied (Lemos-Espinal and Smith 2007. Anfibios y Reptiles del Estado de Chihuahua, México /Amphibians and Reptiles of the State of Chihuahua, México. UNAM-CONABIO. México, D.F. 613 pp.; Lemos-Espinal and Dixon 2013. Amphibians and Reptiles of San Luis Potosí. Eagle Mountain Publishing, Eagle Mountain, Utah. 312 pp.). There have been several reports detailing thermal ecology in *S. jarrovii* and *S. poinsettii* in different environments (Andrews 1998. J. Therm. Biol. 23:329–334; Gadsden and Estrada-Rodríguez 2007. Southwest. Nat. 52:600–608); nevertheless, data on T_p of these two species are unusual (Mathies and Andrews 1997. Funct. Ecol. 11:498–507; Lara-Reséndiz et al. 2014. Rev. Mex. Biol. 85:744–753). Here, we describe thermal preferences in sympatric species *S. jarrovii* and *S. poinsettii* under laboratory conditions.

During October 2012, we conducted fieldwork in the canyon of Las Piedras Encimadas (25.7022°N, 103.7080°W, WGS84; 1425 m elev.), 25 km NW Gomez Palacio, Durango, Mexico. Vegetation was dominated by *Agave lechuguilla*, *Acacia greggii*, *Opuntia leptocaulis*, and *Jatropha dioica*. Throughout the study site, rock faces with crevices were numerous. The data presented are based on 10 adults (> 60.0 mm SVL) of *S. jarrovii* and 10 adults (> 77.0 mm SVL) of *S. poinsettii* captured by noose.

All lizards were placed in a laboratory thermal gradient to obtain the T_p range. The thermal gradient consisted of a wooden shuttle box of 150 x 100 x 80 cm (length, width, and height) divided into ten tracks with insulation barriers to prevent behavioral influence of adjacent lizards, and filled with 2–3 cm of rocky substrate. The shuttle box was housed in a room with air conditioning at a constant temperature of 20°C. At one end, and at the center of the box, lamps were placed at different heights to generate a thermal gradient from 20 to 50°C. The T_p of lizards was measured every hour from 0900 until 1800 h (activity period) using a digital thermometer Fluke model 51-II. The 25% and 75% quartiles of each species' T_p range (T_{p25} and T_{p75}) were calculated to obtain the lower and upper limit (Van Damme et al. 1990. Oikos 57:61–67; Herts et al. 1993. Am. Nat. 142:796–818). After laboratory experiments, all lizards were released at their capture sites. We applied a nonparametric Kruskal-Wallis one-way test to analyze differences between all measurements of body temperature in the laboratory and we used a Mann-Whitney Rank test to analyze the differences between species.