

NOTAS DE CAMPO/FIELD NOTES

Groove-billed Ani *Crotophaga sulcirostris*, new prey

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The Groove-billed Ani *Crotophaga sulcirostris* (Cuculidae) occurs from southwestern United States to northern Chile and northwestern Argentina (Payne, 1997). It inhabits open areas, forest clearings, shrubby fields, thickets, swamps, disturbed areas, farms, hedgerows, and urban gardens (Skutch, 1959; Payne, 1997). It is predominantly insectivorous, but also feeds on other invertebrates, vertebrates and vegetal matter (Skutch, 1959; Payne, 1997). Here, I report the first depredation event of *C. sulcirostris* on an adult praying mantid of the genus *Stagmomantis* (Insecta: Mantodea).

In a metropolitan area with xerophytic vegetation (Julián-Caballero, 2021), in the municipality of Santa Cruz Xoxocotlán (17.01861, -96.75542; 1550 m a.s.l.), Oaxaca, México, on 10 August 2021, at 10h30, I saw an individual *C. sulcirostris* running on the ground in pursuit of an insect. The bird started holding the prey on its bill (Fig. 1A) and hit it against the ground, breaking off a raptorial foreleg of the insect (Fig. 1B). The bird swallowed the prey and flew away; the whole event lasted *c.* 1 min. Species of *Stagmomantis* are medium-sized and its raptorial forelegs are morphologically different from other genera of Mantodea recorded in the state of Oaxaca (Hernández-Baltazar & Gómez, 2017).

This observation represents the first record of a depredation event of *C. sulcirostris* on the genus *Stagmomantis*. With this new record, eight insect orders (Coleoptera, Dermaptera, Diptera, Hemiptera, Hymenoptera, Lepidoptera, Mantodea, and Orthoptera) are part of the diet of *C. sulcirostris* (Alcántara *et al.*, 2012). Analyses of gizzard and stomach contents in anis have revealed consumption of insects, spiders, seeds, and vertebrates (Repenning *et al.*, 2009; Cooke *et al.*, 2020). García (1996) and Cooke *et al.* (2020) reported Mantodea as a food item for Smooth-billed Ani *Crotophaga ani*. As reported herein, *C. sulcirostris* is known to forage in the ground, amid long grass, tall weeds and bushes' foliage (Skutch, 1959; Payne, 1997). Recording depredation events in birds is important to fully understanding their ecological roles.

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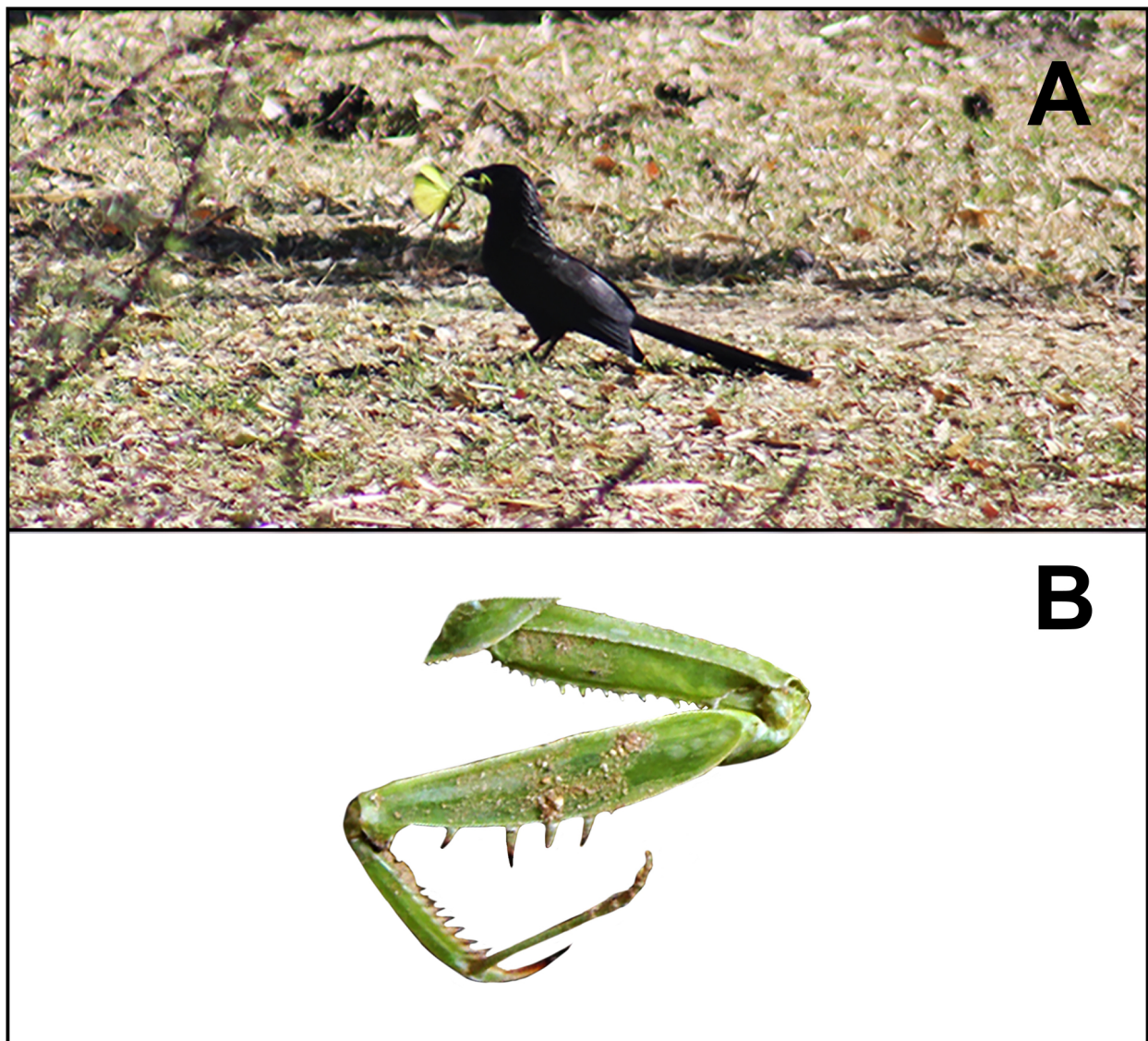


Figure 1: (A) Groove-billed Ani *Crotophaga sulcirostris* holding a praying mantid *Stagmomantis* sp. (Mantodea) in its bill; municipality of Santa Cruz Xoxocotlán, Oaxaca, México, 10 August 2021 (C. Camilo Julián-Caballero). (B) Raptorial foreleg of *Stagmomantis* not swallowed by the ani (C. Camilo Julián-Caballero).