

# Arthropods as predators of herpetofauna in Chu Mom Ray National Park, Vietnam

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## ABSTRACT

A biodiversity survey was conducted in spring 2012 in eastern Chu Mom Ray National Park, Kon Tum Province, central Vietnam, to identify and record predaceous arthropod taxa that are known to include reptile and amphibian prey in their diet as well as those of large body size ( $\geq 60$  mm). Five drift fence arrays with pitfalls and double-ended funnel traps were installed in lowland evergreen forest and monitored over 40 nights. Additionally, 22 nocturnal searches were conducted along an adjacent forest stream. Recorded large arthropod predators comprise of one Asian forest scorpion species (*Heterometrus petersii*), at least three different tarantula species in the subfamily Selenocosmiinae, one scolopendromorph centipede species (*Scolopendra dehaani*), one scutigero-morph centipede (*Thereuopoda longicornis*), one giant water bug species (*Lethocerus* cf. *indicus*), one creeping water bug species in the family Naucoridae, two water scorpion species (*Cercotmetus* sp. and *Laccotrephes* sp.), one species of army ant (*Aenictus* sp.), four species of praying mantises (*Hierodula fruhstorferi*, *Hierodula patellifera*, *Tenodera aridifolia* and *Theopropus elegans*) and one species of freshwater crab (*Balssipotamon fruhstorferi*). In two cases, the predation of *Aenictus* sp. on the caecilian *Ichthyophis* cf. *nguyenorum* was observed. Conservation measures for giant water bugs, tarantulas and Asian forest scorpions are discussed.

**Key words:** Arthropods, predators, herpetofauna, biodiversity survey, conservation.