

## Predation of Brooke's House Gecko (*Hemidactylus brookii*) by Common House Gecko (*Hemidactylus cf. frenatus*) from Gujarat, India

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Geckos are good survivalists and have coexisted with humans for many years. The genus *Hemidactylus* (house geckos) are spread throughout the tropics and are known to thrive in human settlements (Vanderduys and Kutt 2013). The Common House Geckos are native to South and South East Asia as well as near Oceania (Wogan et al. 2021). *Hemidactylus* Geckos are primarily insectivores, whose diet mainly comprises dipterans, lepidopterans, coleopterans, and hemipterans (Díaz Pérez et al. 2012; Tkaczenko et al. 2014). Brown et al. (2017) commenced that the natural diet of *H. frenatus* is diverse and varies geographically. They are opportunistic predators so sometimes they show oophagy and also cannibalism (Polis and Myers 1985; Bolger and Case 1992; Kusuminda et al. 2013). Predation among reptiles involves one species actively hunting, capturing, and consuming another organism for sustenance. Polis and Myers (1985) also reported that cannibalism could be an opportunistic response to the combination of high conspecific densities and starvation, and could readily influence competitive interactions among reptiles and amphibians. This dynamic plays a critical role in shaping ecological dynamics, impacting population dynamics, community composition, and driving evolutionary adaptations within reptilian ecosystems.

This observation was made only once at Paniya village (21.517510N, 71.038275E) in Amreli District, Gujarat, India on 11 September 2023, at 1750 h. It was an opportunistic sighting involving an adult Common House Gecko (*Hemidactylus cf. frenatus*) feeding upon a Brooke's House Gecko (*H. brookii*), which was observed on an electric pole (height approx. 3 ft.) as seen in the image (Fig. A & B). The Common House Gecko was tightening its grip on the Brooke's Gecko as the Brooke's Gecko remained motionless and was swallowed by the Common House Gecko within half an hour. The ingestion process/predatory behaviour were observed and after that the gecko disappeared in the electric pole.



*Figure 1: A & B. Predation of Brooke's House Gecko (H. brookii) by Common House Gecko (H. cf. frenatus)*

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