AMEIVA BIFRONTATA (Cope’s Ameiva). ENDPARASITES. Ameiva bifrontata is known from northern Peru, Colombia, Venezuela, Testigo Island, Dutch Leeward Islands, Margarita Island, Aruba, La Tortuga Island (Uetz and Hallermann 2012. The Reptile Database. www.reptile-database.org, accessed 30 January, 2012). To our knowledge there are no reports of helminths from A. bifrontata. The purpose of this note is to establish the initial helminth list for A. bifrontata.

Eighteen A. bifrontata were examined, collected in November 1968 from Bellavista, (5.6622°S, 78.6756°W, WGS84, elev. 195 m), Cajamarca Region, Peru and deposited in the herpetology collection of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (LACM) as: LACM 76864, 76865, 76868, 76869, 76871, 76862, 76874, 76877, 76878, 76880–76885, 76887–76889. A left lateral incision was made through the body wall and the digestive tract was removed. The esophagus, stomach, small and large intestines were opened longitudinally and searched for helminths utilizing a dissecting microscope. The body cavity was also searched. Helminths were cleared in lactophenol, placed on a microscope slide, coverslipped and studied utilizing a compound microscope.

Found were one species of Nematoda, Parapharyngodon riojensis (prevalence, number infected/number examined x 100 = 56%, mean intensity, mean number infected lizards = 2.2 ± 1.4 SD, range = 1–4), and one oligacanthorhynchid cystacanth (Acanthocephala) (prevalence = 6%). Helminths were deposited in the United States National Parasite Collection, Beltsville, Maryland as P. riojensis (USNPC 105267) and oligacanthorhynchid cystacanth (USNPC 105268).

Parapharyngodon riojensis was described from Phymaturus punae from the province of La Rioja, Argentina by Ramallo et al. (2002. J. Parasitol. 88:979–982) and has been reported from Lioaemus buergeri and Phymaturus palluma from Argentina (Goldberg et al. 2004. Comp. Parasitol. 71:208–214) as well as Lioaemus boulengeri, L. rothi, L. umbirifer, Phymaturus antofagastensis and P. zapalensis also from Argentina (O’Grady and Dear- ing, 2006. Oecologia 150:355–361). Two South American species of Parapharyngodon (P. riojensis and P. senisfacicaudus) have been described in which the ovaries are postesophageal. These two species are separated on the basis of egg morphology: egg shell thin and smooth in P. senisfacicaudus, punctate and thick in P. riojensis. Our specimens possessed postesophageal ovaries and eggs with thick, punctate shells. Oligacanthorhynchidae is the only acanthocephalan family to possess robust, pseudoanulate cystacanths, an obvious character of our cystacanth specimen. Acanthocephalans utilize an arthropod intermediate host in which the cystacanth larval stage develops (Kennedy 2006. Ecology of the Acanthocephala. Cambridge University Press, New York. 249 pp.). Since development to the adult form does not occur in A. bifrontata, it is best considered as a paratenic (= transport) host. Ameiva bifrontata represents a new host record for Parapharyngodon riojensis and oligacanthorhynchid cystacanths. Peru is a new locality record for P. riojensis; however, undetermined cystacanths have been reported from Peru (Bursey et al. 2001 Comp. Parasitol. 68:21–35).

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On 14 October 2011 at 1614 h, we observed an adult male Anolis sagrei at 24305 SW 142 Avenue, Homestead, Miami-Dade County, Florida (25.540744°N, 80.420585°W, WGS84; elev. 4 m).
This anole was ca. 1 m above ground on a wooden post facing downward and had a neonate Leiocephalus schreiberi in its mouth (Fig. 1). The event was observed for ca. 4–5 min, at which time concluded with the A. sagrei consuming the L. schreiberi. Photographic vouchers were deposited in the Florida Museum of Natural History (UF 166507). This is the first known predation event on L. schreiberi in Florida, but also might provide an example for invasive meltdown by which short-term observations of facilitatory interactions between two species might have long-term consequences (i.e., enhancing the impact and/or probability of establishment and spread of the other) (Simberloff and Von Holle 1999. Bio. Invasions 1:21–32), as Florida has the most introduced and established herpetofaunal species in the world (Krysko et al. 2011. Zootaxa 3028:1–64).

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ASPIDOSCELIS NEOTESSELATA (Colorado Checkered Whiptail). FRAGMENTED HABITAT. Valco State Wildlife Area (38.259361°N, 104.705824°W, WGS84; elev. 1445 m), managed by the Colorado Division of Wildlife, is immediately adjacent to the north side of Colorado Hwy 96 (i.e., Thatcher Avenue) in the western metropolitan area of the City of Pueblo, Pueblo Co., Colorado, USA. This small gem of reclamation, commonly known as Valco Ponds, receives numerous visitors in the modes of short rest stops from Hwy 96, day-use hiking and sightseeing, fishing, and birding. The ponds, wetlands, and wildlife areas are mostly reclaimed gravel pits and surroundings, two being no farther than ~20–30 m from the south side of the Arkansas River, which were mined out by the Valco Cement Co. located immediately east of the ponds. Because the surroundings did not appear to include suitable habitat for whiptail lizards, my first visit to Valco Ponds during a herpetological expedition to southeastern Colorado in 1999 was as a rest stop from the rigors of the day rather than the expectation of collecting lizards. However, I unexpectedly began to see hatchling lizards almost immediately after stopping there, all of which proved to be triploid Aspidoscelis neotesselata pattern class A (Walker et al. 1997. Herpetologica 53:233–259). Subsequently, using large rubber bands as projectiles, I obtained the following specimens of the species from Valco Ponds for study: 6 September 1999 (University of Arkansas Department of Zoology, UADZ 6657–6667, N = 11); 7 September 1999 (UADZ 6668–6672, N = 5); 10 June 2000 (UADZ 6678–6683, N = 6).

This description of the occupancy of Valco Ponds by A. neotesselata A is to show that a moderately large (maximum SVL ~100 mm), triploid, hybrid-derived parthenogenetic species not only subsists in a highly fragmented metropolitan environment which is intensively used by humans, but it is represented there in surprisingly large numbers. Parts of the site that I reference herein include the paved parking lot, a 15–40 m wide grove of mainly Eastern Cottonwood (Populus deltoides) between the length of the north side of the lot and the south side of the Arkansas River, a narrow riparian forest trail west of the lot along the river, a road/levee from east of the lot to the river, and two sections of roads/levees between the river and three Valco Ponds of 20, 15.5, and 10 acres stocked with game fish (see http://www.cfo-link.org/downloads/pueblol1.pdf). On 6 September 1999, with the ponds. Because the surroundings did not appear to include suitable habitat for whiptail lizards, my first visit to Valco Ponds during a herpetological expedition to southeastern Colorado in 1999 was as a rest stop from the rigors of the day rather than the expectation of collecting lizards. However, I unexpectedly began to see hatchling lizards almost immediately after stopping there, all of which proved to be triploid Aspidoscelis neotesselata pattern class A (Walker et al. 1997. Herpetologica 53:233–259). Subsequently, using large rubber bands as projectiles, I obtained the following specimens of the species from Valco Ponds for study: 6 September 1999 (University of Arkansas Department of Zoology, UADZ 6657–6667, N = 11); 7 September 1999 (UADZ 6668–6672, N = 5); 10 June 2000 (UADZ 6678–6683, N = 6).

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The Valco State Wildlife Area west of Pueblo Boulevard in Pueblo is among the most dramatic examples of high levels of abundance in a fragmented habitat that I have observed in any parthenogenetic species of Aspidoscelis. The habitat available for lizards (which totals ~2.1 ha) and the resulting pattern of lizard distribution at the site can be appreciated by typing in “Valco Ponds, Colorado” on Google Earth and viewing the results. This enclave, which is situated between Pueblo Lake State Park (west), urban Pueblo (east), Arkansas River (north), and Colorado Hwy 96 (south) certainly fits into the pattern of unusual/marginal habitats occupied by parthenogenetic whiptail species in the absence of gonochoristic species (i.e., Aspidoscelis sexlineata viridis which occurs elsewhere in the general area) that were discussed by Wright and Lowe (1968. Copeia 1968:128–138). Other nearby sites in the western metropolitan area of Pueblo where A. neotesselata A occurs in publicly owned areas extensively altered and used by humans, but not in a fragmented mosaic, also have been reported. Based on published records, the species is abundant...