

**A landsnail in a faecal pellet of the snake *Eirenis rothi*  
Jan, 1865  
(Mollusca, Gaatropoda – Reptilia, Ophidia)**

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Abstract: A juvenile shell of *Xeropicta vestalis joppensis* (Schmidt, 1855) is reported from a faecal pellet of *Eirenis rothi* Jan, 1865. It is the first case of predation on a landsnail by snakes of the genus *Eirenis*.  
Key words: Gastropoda, *Xeropicta vestalis joppensis*, Ophidia, *Eirenis rothi*, predation, Israel.

Since 1970 we are surveying from time-to-time the reptile fauna of Kibbutz Nezer Sereni. The latter is an agricultural settlement covering some 360 ha, in a densely built up area some 16 km SW of Tel Aviv, Israel. So far we were able to record the presence of 26 autochthonous and 3 allochthonous species (Mienis, H. K. 1990 and additional unpublished data).

On 14. March 1991 we caught for the first and so far only time a specimen of *Eirenis rothi* Jan, 1865, Fam. Colubridae. The snake was found under a stone near the gate of a Citrus orchard opposite Giv'at Jashresh, an unofficial nature reserve partly covered by *Acacia albida*.

Almost immediately the snake produced a faecal pellet which contained to our surprise a juvenile shell of *Xeropicta vestalis joppensis* (Schmidt, 1855), Fam. Hygromiidae, with a shell diameter of 3 mm.

*Eirenis rothi* is known to feed on a large variety of insects, spiders, scorpions, centipedes, and other invertebrates (Arbel, A. 1984: 131; Esterbauer, H. 1992: 43). Since it does not seem to feed on prey which swallow whole snails, we are most probably dealing here with a case of primary predation on a snail by the snake.

As far as we know this seems to be the first time that a snail is reported as a prey item of *Eirenis rothi* or of any other *Eirenis species* (Arbel, A. 1984; Dotsenko, I. B. 1987; Esterbauer, H. 1992).

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