

SCINAX FUSCOMARGINATUS (NCN). **DEFENSIVE BEHAVIOR.** Anurans are known to be an important component in the diet of a large number of predators, although they have evolved several defensive mechanisms (Duellman and Trueb 1994. *Biology of Amphibians*. McGraw-Hill Book Co. 670 pp.). Some of the defensive mechanisms are shown by some hylid species (Azevedo-Ramos 1995. *Rev. Bras. Bio.* 55[1]:45–47; Manzanilla et al. 1998. *Herpetol. Rev.* 29:39–40; Napoli 2001. *Herpetol. Rev.* 32:36–37), however there is lack of descriptions of any of these

behaviors for *Scinax* species. Field observations were carried out in the Ecological Station of Itirapina (22°13'S; 47°54'W, 725 m elev.), municipalities of Itirapina and Brotas, São Paulo State, Brazil. Approximately 200 male *Scinax fuscomarginatus* were handled between October 2002 and March 2003. When handled they exhibited at least three identifiable defensive strategies: 1) to escape, some individuals jumped into the water staying submerged motionless for over two minutes while holding onto the submerged vegetation; 2) every adult male was noted to perform death feigning (thanatosis), with its belly, arms, and legs upturned, remaining immobilized for less than 1 min in most of cases, but for over 12 min during one observation; and 3) males inflated their lungs, puffing up the body for ca. 30 sec. The first strategy suggests the frog might be looking for a shelter to avoid possible terrestrial predators; nevertheless, the frog becomes exposed to aquatic predators instead (Hinshaw and Sullivan 1990. *J. Herpetol.* 24[2]:196–197; Haddad and Bastos 1997. *Amphibia-Reptilia* 18:295–298). Likewise, the efficiency of the two other strategies remains unrecognized (Azevedo-Ramos 1995, *op. cit.*). Data suggesting that sheltering underwater, feigning death, or creating a larger image actually reduces the risks of predation in most of Neotropical anurans (Azevedo-Ramos 1995, *op. cit.*) are lacking.

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