



FIG. 1. Wood Frog (*Lithobates sylvaticus*) in amplexus with a gravid female Spotted Salamander (*Ambystoma maculatum*), Bat Lake, Algonquin Provincial Park, Ontario, Canada.

SVL, 20.5 g mass) (Fig. 1). Both individuals were found inside a submerged minnow trap ca. 1 m below the surface. The frog was tightly clasped around the pectoral girdle of the salamander, immediately posterior to the forelimbs. After photographing, the pair was separated. The *L. sylvaticus* was released without measurement and the *A. maculatum* was measured, weighed, and marked prior to release.

Interspecific amplexus is functionally equivalent to other well characterized Davian behaviors which include misdirected mating with conspecifics, necrogamy, or amplexus with inanimate objects. Observations of interspecific amplexus between anurans are recorded with some regularity (Meshaka 1996. Florida Scient. 59[2]:74–75; Eaton et al. 1999. Can. Field Nat. 113:512–513; Pearl et al. 2005. Am. Mid. Nat. 154:126–134; D'Amore et al. 2009. Herpetol. Cons. Biol. 4:325–330). By contrast, reports of interspecific pairings of salamanders are rare and restricted to specific species or well-characterized hybridization events (Verrell 1990. J. Zool. Lond. 221:441–451; Verrell 1994. Evolution 48:921–925). An exhaustive search of the formal literature revealed few observations of amplexus between an anuran and caudate, including *Bufo bufo* and *Salamandra salamandra* (Marco and Lizana 2002. Ethol. Ecol. Evol. 14:1–8), although this phenomenon is likely underreported.

It has been proposed that Davian behaviors may result from the highly competitive nature of anuran reproduction characterized by seasonal (time sensitive) and explosive reproductive aggregations (Meshaka 1996, *op. cit.*; Reading 1984. J. Zool. Lond. 203:95–101). Given the shared breeding habitat and synchronized breeding periods of *L. sylvaticus* and *A. maculatum*, mate misidentification seems a likely cause. While close confinement may have facilitated the Davian behavior reported here, previous observations of interspecific amplexus in other species affirm that this behavior is naturally occurring. The fact that the frog exhibited a pectoral girdle clasp further suggests that it was attempting to engage in normal amplexus rather than an accidental or temporary effort.

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**LITORIA RANIFORMIS (Growling Grass Frog). LEUCISM.** *Litoria raniformis* is a large, semi-aquatic frog that occurs naturally across south-eastern Australia, including parts of New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, and South Australia (Pyke 2002. Austr. Zool. 32:32–48). Introduced populations also occur in New Zealand (Voros et al. 2008 Austral. Ecol. 33:623–629). *Litoria raniformis* is listed as endangered by the IUCN. On 24 January 2012, we caught a leucistic *L. raniformis* in a wetland in Bundoora, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia (37.7°S, 145.033°E). It was found in good physical condition, floating among emergent vegetation near the water's edge. Two adult female *L. raniformis*, of typical green and brown coloration were also caught in the same water body. The leucistic individual was an adult male (64 mm SVL) in breeding condition (Fig. 1). It was entirely yellow with a pink tinge, except for darkly pigmented eyes, and raised brown nuptial pads on its thumbs. The dorsal skin was translucent. We observed the leucistic *L. raniformis* on 22 February 2012 in the same wetland, ca. 30 m from the original point of capture. No attempt was made to recapture this individual. It has been suggested that incidences of leucism and albinism may occur with more frequency in nocturnal or cryptozoic animals, due to selection against these traits in diurnal species with visually orientated predators (Sazima and Di-Bernardo 1991. Mem. Inst. Butantan 53:167–173). Interestingly, *L. raniformis* is partly diurnal, with individuals often observed basking in either direct or filtered sunlight (Heard et al. 2006. Wildl. Res. 33:557–564). To our knowledge, this is the first documented case of leucism in *L. raniformis*. A section of toe-web was deposited in the tissue collection of Museum Victoria, Australia (NMVZ 17602).

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FIG. 1. Adult male leucistic *Litoria raniformis* from Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.

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