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Tail autotomy sequence between a snake predator (Lampropeltis triangulum) and its lizard prey (Scincella lateralis). Intravertebral autotomy occurs in those lizard species that possess cartilaginous fracture planes within their caudal vertebrae. Autotomized tails may exhibit rapid, energetically expensive muscle contractions for several minutes after autotomy that attract a predator’s attention and delay its ingestion of the autotomized tail. See page 391. [Benjamin E. Dial, Department of Biology, Texas A&M University, College Station 77843]
Editor's Summary