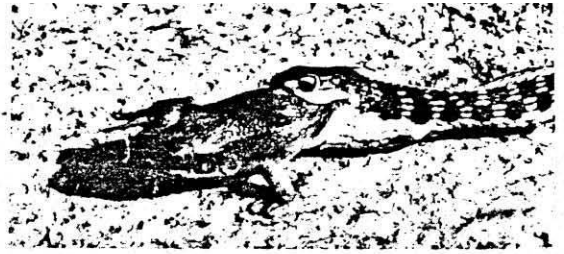
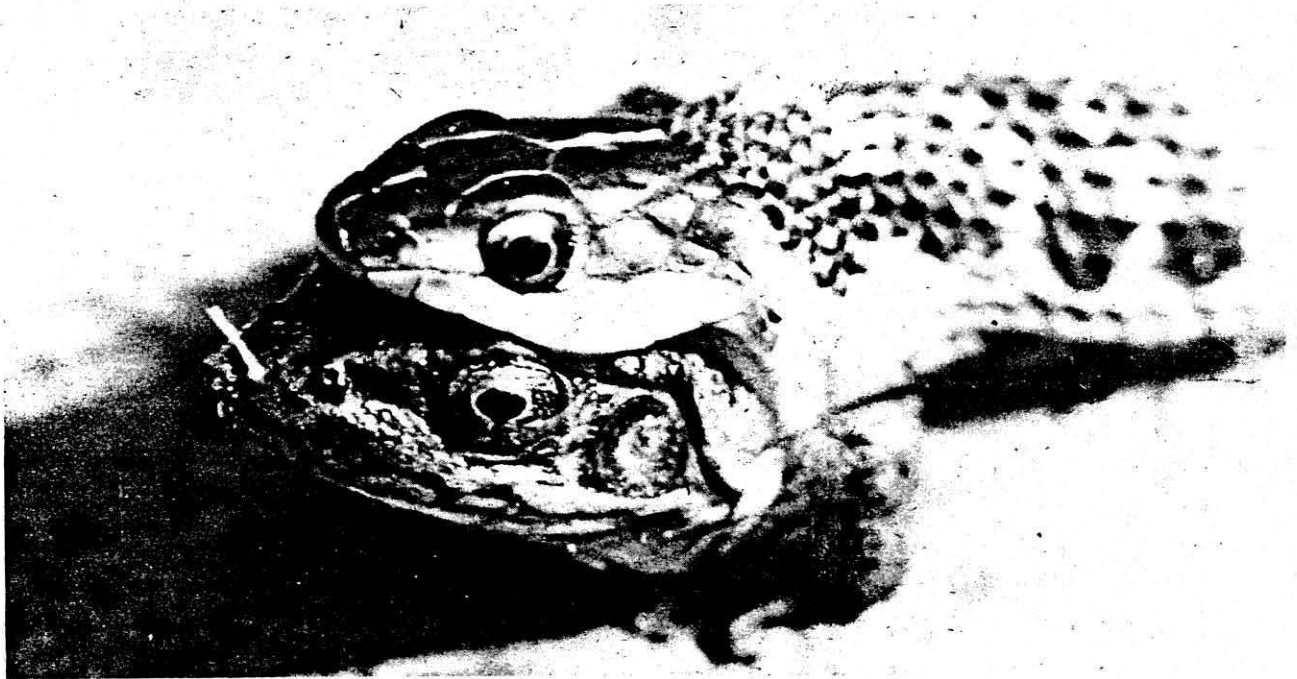




This would have been the last opportunity for the frog to free itself, but it was strangely quiet and hardly moved, as if in shock and paralyzed by fear. Only the trembling skin at its throat and the progressively softer and more infrequent cries showed that it was still alive.



Then the snake slowly and deliberately began to finish its meal. The highly flexible jaws moved forward and from side to side, gradually working the now silent frog inside the snake, hind legs first, then the body.



When only the frog's head was still outside, the snake rested a few seconds, as if gathering strength for the last effort to get its meal down. The strange, two-headed creature, lying quietly on the warm rock, stared at us with its four unblinking eyes. Then the snake's jaws started working again and slowly, smoothly, the frog's head too was swallowed.

The small garter snake moved its head from side to side a few times, yawned to adjust its jaws, then turned around and disappeared in the grass.

