

## Short Notes

### Noteworthy Records of Distribution and Habits of Some Kansas Herptiles

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A collection of herptiles amassed by the senior author in southwestern Kansas in spring and summer of 1971 provided noteworthy information on distribution and habits of six species. Specimens mentioned below are housed in the Museum of the High Plains at Fort Hays Kansas State College.

*Bufo punctatus* Baird and Girard.—One canyon toad was caught on Highway 160, 6½ miles west of Medicine Lodge, Barber County, on the night of 3 June 1971. This locality is approximately 13 miles east-south-east of the most easterly record (5 mi. S Sun City, Barber County) reported by Smith (1956). There is an abrupt change in the type of terrain approximately 6 miles west of Medicine Lodge; relatively flat farmland to the east abuts with rugged, rock-covered hills to the west. Possibly Smith (1956) selected this change in topography as the probable eastern limit of distribution for *Bufo punctatus*. Our data support this distributional limit in that no canyon toads were collected either to the east or to the north of Medicine Lodge, although attempts were made to locate suitable habitat for this species in easternmost Barber County and in Pratt County.

On 3 June 1971, three specimens of *B. punctatus* were collected in a small rocky canyon, 2 miles north and ½ mile east of Sun City, Barber County. At least four others could be heard calling from crevices and holes in the gypsum rimrock. Two were captured in pectoral amplexus, approximately 50 feet from standing water, in a small rockslide on the south side of the canyon. No eggs or tadpoles were found in the pools. Two additional specimens were obtained in another canyon 2 miles north and 1½ miles east of Sun City. One of these specimens was caught in the plant community at the base of the canyon, whereas the other was found under a limestone rock on the rim of the canyon.

Smith (1956) suggested that activity of the canyon toad might be dependent on heavy rainfall. A few hours prior to collecting near Medicine Lodge, the area north and west of town received rainfall of up to five inches. It might be noteworthy that the only DOR canyon toads seen on roads after the storm apparently had been killed during the downpour.

*Crotaphytus collaris* (Say).—One collared lizard was captured 15½ miles east of Liberal, Seward County, on 11 June 1971. The lizard was removed from beneath a rock on a steep hillside, covered with short grass. Smith (1956) recorded *C. collaris* from Seward County, but he cited no precise locality.

*Leptotyphlops dulcis* Baird and Girard.—Two specimens of the blind snake were obtained at a place 15½ miles east of Liberal, Seward County. This locality is 9½ miles south and 9½ miles west of the nearest locality of record (1 mi. W Meade State Lake, Smith, 1956), and represents the first record of occurrence of the species in Seward County, although it is well within the projected range. Both specimens were caught under rocks, partially buried in the soil; in one instance the soil was sandy, but in the other instance it was compact.

*Elaphae guttata* Linnaeus.—One rat snake was obtained on 7 July 1971 near the west shore of Scott County State Lake, Scott County, when it crawled from a grove of cottonwoods onto a blacktop road shortly after dusk. This locality extends the known distribution of the species approximately 55 miles west-southwest from Trego County (Smith, 1956). The surrounding area in Scott County consists of steep hills with outcrops of limestone and caliche; similar habitat extends westward into Wichita County, and further collecting may result in acquisition of specimens of *E. guttata* from that county.

*Tropidoclonion lineatum* (Hallowell).—Smith (1956) recorded specimens of the lined snake from Scott County (no specific locality) and from Wichita, Sedgewick County. On 17 April 1971, two specimens of *T. lineatum* were caught on a rocky hillside on the Raymond Broadie Ranch, ½ mile north and two miles west of Ashland, Clark County. These specimens extend the known range for the species approximately 140 miles west-southwest of Wichita, and about 105 miles south-southeast of Scott County. Subsequently, another specimen was obtained at a place 13 miles north and 2 miles east of the Broadie Ranch on 6 June 1971. All three individuals are tentatively assigned to *T. lineatum annectans* Ramsey.

*Sistrurus catenatus* (Rafinesque).—Three specimens of the massasauga were collected on highway 26, 8.0–10.0 miles southwest (by road) of Meade County State Lake, Meade County, on 10 June and 13 July 1971. Smith (1956) included Meade County within the projected geographic range for *S. catenatus*, but he listed no precise localities of record west of Ford County; therefore, these specimens provide the westernmost record of occurrence of the massasauga in Kansas. These specimens seem to be intergrades of *S. c. tergeminus* and *S. c. edwardsi* as suggested by Diener (1956) for the specimen he recorded from 3.5 miles south of Meade County State Park.

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#### References

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