

Distributional Notes on Some Amphibians and Reptiles of Kansas

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A number of records of amphibians and reptiles for Kansas have accumulated recently at the Kansas State Teachers College of Emporia. These records represent species unreported previously in certain counties, and either constitute extensions of known ranges or are of ecological interest otherwise.

Persons who provided many of the ecological data and specimens represented are: Dr. Ted F. Andrews, Mr. Stan Roth, and Mr. H. A. Stephens.

The checklist of Schmidt (1953) has been followed for taxonomic allocation, except where otherwise indicated. The numbers of the specimens are those of the herpetological collection at the Kansas State Teachers College of Emporia.

Necturus maculosus maculosus Rafinesque. Mudpuppy. Osage Co.: 4 miles east of Melvern (No. 773); 0.25 mile west of Melvern (No. 772).

Both specimens were taken by hook in the Marais des Cygnes River on February 3 and March 4, respectively. Local fishermen in the Melvern area report that the majority of individuals caught by hook are taken during these two months.

Ambystoma texanum Matthes. Narrow-mouthed salamander. Osage Co.: 2 miles east, 1.5 miles south of Scranton (Nos. 678, 764); 4 miles east, 1 mile south of Melvern (No. 788).

On June 21, 1954, an adult salamander (No. 678) was found by some boys in a horse tank. Four months later, on October 19, another adult (No. 764) was found in the same tank. On June 19, 1955, a larva (No. 778) was taken in the same general locality, 1 mile west and 6 miles north of Lyndon. This larva had a body length of 21.3 mm. and a total length of 52 mm. Number 788 was a small individual, body length, 29.5 mm.; total length, 50.4 mm., found on July 2, 1955, under a small rock in the drying bed of a tiny prairie stream. Mud was present beneath the stones in the stream bed and beneath a nearby culvert, but the exposed ground was dry and hard.

Ambystoma tigrinum mavortium Baird. Tiger salamander. Osage Co.: Carbondale (No. 750).

A single large larva was found in 1954.

Bufo woodhousei woodhousei Girard. Rocky mountain toad. Jewell Co.: near Lovewell (Nos. 784-786).

Three recently transformed individuals were taken the last of June, 1951.

Hyla versicolor versicolor Le Conte. Common tree frog. Wyandotte Co.: 1 mile east, 0.25 mile north of Bonner Springs (Nos. 805-807).

An adult and two transforming young were taken on June 17, 1955.

Pseudacris nigrita triseriata Wied. Striped chorus frog. Coffey Co.: 3 miles east of Waverly (Nos. 766-769). Johnson Co.: 3 miles west, 0.5 mile south of Olathe (No. 755).

Microhyla carolinensis olivacea Hallowell. Western narrow-mouthed frog. Wyandotte Co.: 1 mile east, 0.5 mile north of Bonner Springs (No. 808).

Chelydra serpentina serpentina Linnaeus. Common snapping turtle. Johnson Co.: Olathe (No. 721).

This was a small specimen, carapace 32.8 X 31.9 mm., taken April 2, 1955.

Sternotherus odoratus Latreille. Common musk turtle. Johnson Co.: Lake Quivira (No. 681). Wilson Co.: 0.5 mile south of Neodesha in the Fall River (No. 683). Wyandotte Co.: Lake of the Forest, 3 miles east, 0.25 mile north of Bonner Springs (No. 812).

The Johnson County and Wyandotte County specimens represent a northward extension of the known range in Kansas. This form has previously been recorded from as far north as Murray Lake, Miami County, approximately 35 miles south of the Johnson County record (Smith, 1950). This turtle, No. 681, was found at the edge of Lake Quivira on October 10, 1954. It was a young of the year; the measurements were: carapace, 24 X 19 mm.; plastron, 18.5 X 13 mm. The Wyandotte County record is represented by a shell found at the lake, where the species was reported as common.

Terrapene carolina triunguis Agassiz. Three-toed box turtle. Osage Co.: Melvern (No. 679).

This specimen constitutes a range-extension of 9 miles northwest from Agricola, Coffey County (Breukelman and Smith, 1946), and 22 miles southwest of Ottawa, Franklin County (Cragin, 1881), the nearest previous reports.

Many *T. ornata* have been taken from the Melvern area by the author during the past several years, but this is the first time that the three-toed box turtle has been found. Since box turtles are commonly picked up for pets and transported over large distances, there is the

possibility that the three-toed box turtle may represent an escapee. It is recorded, however, because its proximity to previous records indicates that this area may be within the natural range of the species.

Graptemys pseudogeographica. False map turtle.

The turtles of the genus *Graptemys* in Kansas, excluding *G. geographica*, have been known as *G. pseudogeographica kobni* Gray. Cagle has recently (1953, 1954) proposed taxonomic changes which would separate the Kansas population into two species, *G. kobni* and *G. p. ouachitensis*.

Four specimens of false map turtles are in the KSTC Emporia collection. A large series of these turtles is necessary before an evaluation can be made of the Kansas population. Unfortunately, this series has not yet been collected. According to Cagle, the individual characteristics of the four above turtles suggest the following allocation:

Graptemys pseudogeographica ouachitensis Cagle. Lyon Co.: Neosho River at Americus (No. 802); Neosho River, 1.5 miles northwest of Emporia (No. 789). Wilson Co.: Fall River, 0.5 mile south of Neodesha (No. 777).

Graptemys kobni Baur. Lyon Co.: Cottonwood River, 8 miles west of Emporia (No. 801).

Pseudemys scripta elegans Wied. Elegant slider. Osage Co.: 1.5 miles northeast of Melvern (No. 803).

An individual was taken at the junction of Long Creek and the Marais des Cygnes River.

Trionyx ferox hartwegi Conant and Goin. Spiny soft-shelled turtle. Wabaunsee Co.: Dragoon Creek at Harveyville (No. 680). Wilson Co.: Fall River, 0.5 mile south of Neodesha (No. 774).

Trionyx muticus Le Sueur. Smooth soft-shelled turtle. Gray Co.: 1 mile west of Cimarron in the Arkansas River (No. 751).

This was a juvenile, carapace 78.3 X 65.9 mm. Darrell Timken found it buried in the sand under shallow water at the edge of the river. This record extends the known range of the species 90 miles from the previously reported localities in Barber, Pratt, and Reno Counties (Burt, 1935; Smith, 1950). These records are from rivers in southern Kansas which converge and join the Arkansas River south of Ponca City, Oklahoma. The only other records for the Arkansas River in Kansas are from Cowley County, about 250 miles downstream.

Ophisaurus attenuatus attenuatus Baird. Glass-snake lizard. Osage Co.: 2 miles east, 0.5 mile north of Melvern (No. 749). Woodson Co.: Woodson County State Park, 6 miles east of Toronto (No. 762).

The Osage County specimen was found dead on the road in an area

of open, overgrown fields, whereas the individual from Woodson County was captured while crawling in the open on a heavy mat of leaves in dense oak woods.

Cnemidophorus sexlineatus Linnaeus. Six-lined racerunner. Osage Co.: 1 mile west, 1.75 miles south of Melvern (No. 763).

The racerunner is common in Osage County, occurring in the drier, open spots, particularly along the railroad right-of-way.

Eumeces septentrionalis Baird. Prairie skink. Woodson Co.: Woodson County State Park, 6 miles east of Toronto (No. 686).

The only previous definite locality record for the prairie skink in Woodson County was for the typical subspecies at Neosho Falls (Burt, 1933; Taylor, 1935). *E. s. septentrionalis* has not been reported in Kansas farther south or west of that record, except for Cherokee County (Burt, 1928). The southern prairie skink, *E. s. obtusirostris* Bocourt, ranges into south-central Kansas. It has been reported from Comanche County (Smith and Slater, 1949) and Kingman County (Taylor, 1935).

The specimen reported here had broad, well-defined dark lines bordering the dorsolateral light lines. Dark borders were present on the median light line, which extended forward to the parietal. These are characteristics of *E. s. septentrionalis*. The frontonasal was large and in broad contact with the anterior loreal on both sides, and there were 54 dorsal scales from the base of the tail to the occiput. These are characteristics of *E. s. obtusirostris*. In life, the ground color was a bit darkened, but more nearly the light gray of *septentrionalis*. The above characteristics may indicate that this specimen was a member of an intergrading population.

The usual habitat of the prairie skink is open grassy hillsides provided with small, flat rocks (Taylor, 1935). This individual, however, was found beneath a rock in a thick accumulation of dead leaves in damp, heavily-shaded oak woods.

Natrix sipedon sipedon Linnaeus. Common water snake. Johnson Co.: 1 mile north, 3.5 miles west of Olathe (Nos. 752, 753).

Storeria dekayi texana Trapido. DeKay's snake. Lyon Co.: Emporia (No. 787). Woodson Co.: Woodson County State Park, 6 miles east of Toronto (No. 694).

This species was recorded previously from the extreme northeast corner of Lyon County (Breukelman and Clarke, 1951). This specimen was taken in the open on November 8, 1954. Most species of reptiles are not collected as late as November in Kansas. However, DeKay's snake has been collected in Kansas in November and January on several other occasions. An individual was found in the open at Melvern, Osage

County, on November 10, 1951, and was recorded for January in Sedgwick County (Burt, 1934), in Franklin County on November 4, and in Riley County on January 11 (Burt, 1933).

Thamnophis radix haydeni Kennicott. Plains garter snake. Osage Co.: Osage City (No. 725).

This snake is fairly common in Osage City, but has not been taken in the southeastern part of the county.

Thamnophis sirtalis parietalis Say. Red-sided garter snake. Johnson Co.: 2 miles north, 2 miles west of Olathe (Nos. 756, 757). Stafford Co.: Salt Marsh (No. 726). Wyandotte Co.: 1 mile east, 0.25 mile north of Bonner Springs (No. 811).

Tropidoclonion lineatum Hallowell. Lined snake. Coffey Co.: Leroy (No. 682); 3 miles east of Waverly (No. 765).

The subspecific status of the lined snake in east-central Kansas is not clearly understood. Ramsey (1953) divided the previously monotypic species into three subspecies, using scale counts as his criterion for the differentiation. The subspecies, *lineatum* and *annectens*, intergrade in east-central Kansas and, at present, there are not enough large series of specimens available from this critical area to define the limits of the intergradation. The two present specimens had the following scale counts: No. 682, female, ventrals 142, caudals 25+; No. 765, female, ventrals 144, caudals 38. According to Ramsey's key, females with fewer than 144 ventrals belong to the *lineatum* group, and females with more than 144 ventrals are *annectens*. This would place the former specimen as *lineatum* and the latter as either. The population in Coffey County is probably intergradient, although it is south of the southern limit of Pleistocene glaciation, which Ramsey believed would be the intergrading area.

Diadophis punctatus arnyi Kennicott. Prairie ring-necked snake. Jewell Co.: near Lovewell (No. 783). Johnson Co.: 1 mile north, 2.75 miles west of Olathe (Nos. 744, 745, 746, 794-800 inclusive). Woodson Co.: Woodson County State Park, 6 miles east of Toronto (No. 677).

Carphophis amoenus vermis Kennicott. Western worm snake. Woodson Co.: Woodson County State Park, 6 miles east of Toronto (Nos. 723, 724).

Masticophis flagellum testaceus Say. Western coachwhip. Haskell Co.: 5 miles north of Sublette (No. 758).

This specimen was found under a wheat shock in February.

Opheodrys aestivus Linnaeus. Rough green snake. Woodson Co.: Woodson County State Park, 6 miles east of Toronto (Nos. 775, 776).

Wyandotte Co.: 2 miles east, 1 mile north of Bonner Springs (No. 809); 1.5 miles east, 0.75 mile north of Bonner Springs (No. 810).

Green snakes are fairly common in the Woodson County State Park area, and are usually found on the ground or in low bushes not far from the lake. These records are on the western periphery of the known range in Kansas. A record from Greenwood County was reported by Tihen (1938). He reported the rough green snake at 4 miles northeast of Fall River, approximately 12 miles southwest of the present locality. This species has not been recorded from localities north or west of the locality given by Tihen. There is one previous locality record for Woodson County. An old specimen in the U. S. National Museum from Neosho Falls, in the extreme northeast corner of the county, was reported by Burt (1933).

Pituophis catenifer sayi Schlegel. Bull snake. Johnson Co.: 3 miles north of Gardner (No. 747).

Lampropeltis calligaster calligaster Harlan. Blotched king snake. Saline Co.: Assaria (No. 813). Stafford Co.: Salt Marsh (No. 727).

Lampropeltis getulus holbrooki Stejneger. Speckled king snake. Meade Co.: 4 miles east of Fowler.

Mr. H. A. Stephens noted an adult dead on the road at the above location. The specimen was not saved. This was at the extreme edge of its recorded range in Kansas. Two specimens from Meade County State Park, 13 miles southwest of Meade, have been reported previously by Tihen and Sprague (1939). It has not been reported from other counties in that part of the state.

Lampropeltis doliata sypila Cope. Red milk snake. Wyandotte Co.: 1 mile east, 1 mile north of Bonner Springs (No. 804).

Lampropeltis doliata: sypila X *gentilis*. Red milk snake. Woodson Co.: Woodson County State Park, 6 miles east of Toronto.

A large milk snake which possessed characteristics intergradient between *L. d. sypila* and *L. d. gentilis* was captured in heavy oak woods on May 2, 1955. It was placed on exhibition at the college and on May 8 it escaped before it could be preserved.

Lampropeltis doliata gentilis Baird and Girard. Red milk snake. Jewell Co.: near Lovewell (Nos. 779, 780).

Tantilla gracilis hallowelli Cope. Mitre snake. Johnson Co.: 1 mile north, 2.75 miles west of Olathe (Nos. 748, 790–793 inclusive). Woodson Co.: Woodson County State Park, 6 miles east of Toronto (Nos. 676, 722).

Sistrurus catenatus tergeminus Say. Western massasauga. Barton Co.: Cheyenne Bottoms (Nos. 770, 771). Smith Co.: 12 miles north of Downs (No. 704).

The Smith County record constitutes an extension of the known range of this species northwest from the localities reported previously. Branson (1904) recorded the massasauga from the following nearby counties: Osborne, Mitchell, Cloud, and Republic. No specific localities were given for any of these records.

Crotalus horridus horridus Linnaeus. Timber rattlesnake. Johnson Co.: 2.75 miles west, 1 mile north of Olathe (No. 719); 3 miles north of Olathe (No. 720).

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