

THE SPRING PEEPER, *HYLA CRUCIFER* WIED (ANURA, HYLIDAE) IN KANSAS

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The distributional status of the spring peeper, *Hyla crucifer*, in Kansas has been shown by Collins (1974) based on known voucher specimens. Platt, *et al.*, (1974) listed this species as endangered in the state. Investigations in eastern Kansas during the past three years have not resulted in rediscovery of this frog in the areas mapped by Collins (1974). The most recent specimens from the state are two (KU 31698-9) collected in Cherokee County on 28 May 1951. Other specimens known from

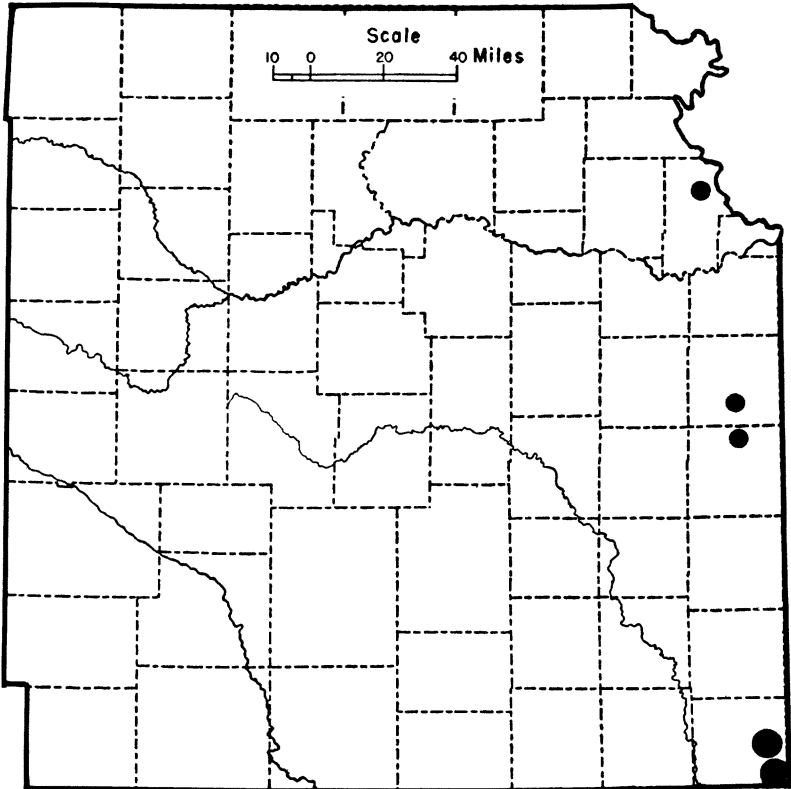


FIGURE 1. A map of the eastern half of Kansas showing collection sites for *Hyla crucifer*. Small dots indicate previously published records (Collins, 1974; Wied, 1839). Large dots are records reported in this paper.

Kansas are: Miami County (OU 814-18, 833-43; UMMZ 66811 (3), 66872 (3); USNM (7); MVZ (5); KU 55472-82), and Linn County (KU 20359) (see fig. 1). In addition, the type locality for this species is Leavenworth County (Wied, 1839), although no type specimen exists.

The validity of the specimen from Leavenworth County is questionable. Wied's (1839) type locality description reads, in part, "Leavenworth Cantonment am Missouri" which conceivably could place the specimen in Missouri. Furthermore, Wied's travels and collections were concentrated in the eastern United States where *H. crucifer* is abundant. The fact that no specimens have been taken subsequently in the vicinity of Leavenworth County suggests that the type locality of *H. crucifer* is probably further east. The specimens from Miami County were collected from Pigeon Lake by H. K. Gloyd prior to 1932 (Gloyd, 1932). Concentrated searches in the area of Pigeon Lake (including Linn County) for *H. crucifer* have been unsuccessful (J. T. Collins, pers. com.).

On 2 April 1977 at approximately 1930 hrs a small chorus of *H. crucifer* was heard by Kelly Irwin and myself at a locality 4.5 mi S and 0.9 mi E of Galena, Cherokee County, Kansas. One calling ♂ (KU 161433) was subsequently captured in a small (6 x 11 m) rush and sedge-choked farm pond located in open pasture (see figs. 2 and 3). The pond has a mud bottom and is 50-80 cm deep. The two ♂♂ heard in this pond were calling from reeds at the surface of the water. Two other *H. crucifer* were



FIGURE 2. An adult male *Hyla crucifer* (KU 161433) from 4.5 mi S and 0.9 mi E Galena, Cherokee County, Kansas. Photograph by Joseph T. Collins.

heard at a somewhat larger pond immediately north of the collection site. The chorus called in a 1-2-3-4 order with the *H. crucifer* at the smaller pond being 2 and 3 in the order. No ♀♀ *H. crucifer* were seen. At the time of collection skies were clear with a full moon, and the ambient temperature was 52°-56°F. *Bufo americanus* were heard nearby. The pond and pasture are located on the Ozarkian Plateau in Ozarkian forest.

On 3 April 1977 at 1410 hrs *H. crucifer* were heard by Kelly Irwin and myself at a place 0.5 mi S Crestline, Cherokee County, Kansas, in a moderately large (80 x 100 m) farm pond in a wheat field. No individuals were seen or collected, since they had stopped calling by the time the pond was investigated. *Chrysemys picta* and *C. scripta* were seen in the pond. Ambient temperature was 67°F with clear skies and a moderate WNW wind.

The discovery of these populations of *Hyla crucifer* in Cherokee County substantiates the earlier records for that county, and emphasizes the recommendations of Platt, *et al.*, (1974) that this frog be protected in Kansas.

I thank Kelly Irwin for his able field assistance. The advice and encouragement of J. T. Collins is deeply appreciated. The editorial



FIGURE 3. Collection site for *Hyla crucifer* (KU 161433). Other *Hyla crucifer* were heard calling at a pond near the two large trees in the upper right-hand corner of the photograph. Photograph by Joseph T. Collins.

comments of William E. Duellman are also appreciated. Museum designations are as follows: University of Kansas (KU), University of Oklahoma (OU), Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley (MVZ), University of Michigan Museum of Zoology (UMMZ), and United States National Museum (USNM).

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