Kw: amphib, hell

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Salvadora grahamiae lineata (Texas Patchnose Snake): JIM HOGG Co. 1.6 km NE Hebbronville. 31 May 1968. J. Davis. TAIC-1524.

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JOHN P. KARGES
Department of Biology
University of Texas at Arlington
Arlington, Texas 76019

NEW *HR* SECTION

HR's feature article file is burgeoning to the point of ridiculousness, and the current lag time to publication is about 18 months. A number of manuscripts on "hold" are ones which could be condensed into rather brief notes, following the same general format as ***GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.*** Hence, beginning with this issue, ***HR*** will start a ***LIFE HISTORY NOTES*** section analagous to Geographic Distribution. Individual notes are to concern only one species, and authors are requested to choose a keyword which ***BEST*** describes the nature of their note (*e.g.*, Reproduction, Longevity, Coloration, Morphology, *etc.*). Figures are permissible to illustrate any data, but should ***REPLACE*** words rather than embellish them. The section's intent is to convey information rather than demonstrate prose. Articles will still be reviewed and edited prior to acceptance.

General format is: SCIENTIFIC NAME in caps (Common Name in parentheses — use Collins, *et al.* 1978. STANDARD COMMON AND CURRENT SCIENTIFIC NAMES FOR NORTH AMERICAN AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES, for North American forms). KEYWORD in caps. Data on the animal (references may be *briefly* cited in text — ***DO NOT*** include complete literature reviews — use summary articles wherever possible). Place of deposition or intended deposition of specimen(s) and catalog number(s). Then, skip a line and close with Submitted by (Name(s) in caps) (addresses). Recommended citation for items appearing in this section is as for Geographic Distribution notes.

Additionally, I shall review our stock of articles on hand and begin to reformat manuscripts best suited to this section. I do not expect this to cause trauma to authors, but should you ***NOT*** want your paper expedited into print, please let me know. ***GRP***

LIFE HISTORY NOTES

CAUDATA

CRYPTOBRANCHUS ALLEGANIENSIS (Hellbender) **LONGEVITY.** Bowler (1977. Longevity of reptiles and amphibians in North American collections. SSAR Herp. Circ., 6:1-32) reported 6 years the maximum longevity for a wild-caught, captive hellbender in a North American collection. Nickerson and Mays (1973. The hellbenders: North American "Giant salamanders." Publ. Biol. Geol. Milwaukee Pub. Mus., 1:1-106) published reports of ages of 30 and 55 years based on specimens maintained in collections outside North America.

On 24 June 1972, Max A. Nickerson collected an adult hellbender in the Niangua River, 0.8 km downstream from Bennett Springs, Dallas County, Missouri. It was donated to the Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, where it has been maintained alive as of this date, a longevity of over ten years. It has been kept at room temperature in a thirty gallon aquarium with gravel substrate, and fed newborn mice on a weekly basis. It appears to be thriving and will be placed at the Oklahoma City Zoo in the near future.

A number of persons have cared for the hellbender since its arrival at the Museum, and they deserve credit for the success in maintaining it. They are: Janice J. Perry, Ray E. Ashton, Andrea Stammler, Mary E. Dawson, Kelly J. Irwin, Eric M. Rundquist and Hank Guarisco.

Submitted by **JOSEPH T. COLLINS,** Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas 66045 *and* Research Associate, Dallas Zoo, 621 East Clarendon Drive, Dallas, Texas 75203. ●

AMBYSTOMA TALPOIDEUM (Mole Salamander) **MORPHOLOGY.** A five-legged mole salamander *(Ambystoma talpoideum)* was collected on 5 March, 1981 from a pitfall trap and drift fence at Flamingo Bay, Aiken County, South Carolina (Fig. 1). The specimen was a gravid female with a snout-vent length of 54.5 mm. Both legs are functional, but only one leg at a time is used for locomotion, alternating between the two limbs. An X-ray indicated the extra limb has a normal skeletal structure.

This anomaly apparently occurs infrequently in natural populations. While monitoring five breeding populations of *A. talpoideum* and recording greater than 17,935 original captures (8,590 juveniles, 9,345 adults) since 1978, a five-legged individual has occurred only once, a resultant frequency of 0.000056. Other abnormalities recorded include at least two individuals with forked tails and dozens with forked and fused toes, the latter often being induced from toe-clipping.

Fig. 1. A dorsal view of a five-legged mole salamander, *Ambystoma talpoideum.*

RAYMOND D. SEMLITSCH
GARY B. MORAN
CYNTHIA A. SHOEMAKER
Savannah River Ecology Laboratory
P.O. Drawer E
Aiken, SC 29801 USA