THE PRESENCE OF THE SCARLET KINGSNAKE, LAMPROPELTIS TRIANGULUM ELASPIDES HOLBROOK (REPTILIA, SERPentes, COLU-BRIDEAE), IN THE FLORIDA KEYS

For the past 48 years, the presence of Lampropeltis triangulums in the Florida Keys has rested upon one specimen (UMMZ 67741) collected on Key West before or during 1929. Duellman and Schwartz (1958:304) considered this record, "doubtful" because, "despite intensive collecting" in the keys, no additional specimens were available. In a more recent listing of snakes inhabiting the Florida Keys, Paulson (1966) omitted L. triangulum completely. Conant (1975) noted the most recent authority to include Key West in the distribution of L. triangulum. On the evening of 29 November 1976, Brian Sharp and I collected an adult male L. triangulum (USNM 204238) 21.3 km NE of Key Largo on Largo Key, Monroe Co., Florida. This locality lies within the Black Ironwood (Krugiodendron fereus) dominated tropical hardwood hammock with a substrate of coral-limestone and scattered loose rock.

Williams (1970) illustrates variation in ventral counts for L. triangulum in which a cline is demonstrated along the Atlantic coast. Ventral counts decrease in a southward direction from New Jersey to Florida with a mean of 170.7 (N=22) in south Florida males. USNM 204238 from Largo Key exhibits a low ventral count (176) which probably represents the terminus of that cline. The relatively high number of ventrals (176) on USNM 67741 from Key West tends to relate it to populations farther south. Coluber constrictor (Auffenberg, 1955) and Stereocellus kasteyi (Paulson, 1966) occurring on the lower keys have also been shown to exhibit affinities closer to northern populations than to the less-distant southern mainland. Paulson (1966) discussed the possible significance of this character displacement. Although the Key West specimen is probably valid, it is doubtful whether L. triangulum still occurs on the heavily developed island. It is possible that this small, secretive, and largely nocturnal snake has been overlooked on other keys by collectors. Keys which support extensive pineal and/or hammock vegetation may provide sufficient habitat for the species. In light of the above evidence, Lampropeltis triangulum should now

Geographic Distribution

Herpetological Review publishes brief notices of new geographic distribution records in order to make them available to the herpetological community in published form. Geographic distribution records are important to biologists in that they allow for a more precise determination of the range of a species, and thereby permit a more significant interpretion of the biology of same. The standard format for a geographic distribution record is:

Scientific name (common name) as it appears in Conant (1956, 1975) or Stebbins (1974). Locality (use metric for distances). Date and collector(s). Identified or verified by.

Place of deposition and catalogue number. Comments. Citation. Submitted by (give name and address).

Please submit new geographic distribution records in the standard format only to Joseph C. Mitchell, Graduate Program in Ecology, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee 37916. Short manuscripts are acceptable when date cannot be adequately presented in the standard format.


RANGE EXTENSIONS AND NEW COUNTY RECORDS OF SOME ILLINOIS AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES


Notophthalmus viridescens louisianensis (Caudell New). DeKalb Co: Audubon Sanctuary Pond. 16 km N DeKalb 15 Feb. 1969-20 March 1969. HDW 725-729. Constitutes a relictual population, and fills the hiatus between the DuPage County record on the east and Lee County on the west. Dendroica bernardi (Banning's Warbler). DeKalb Co: 3.2 km W Sandwich, marsh bordering Somanon Creek. Two specimens observed but not collected 29 April 1972. LaSalle Co: 4.8 km N Sheridan. June 1972. 3.2 km N Utica, Triumph Rd. HDW 1160. Utica record extends range approx. 10 km on both county and record and 84.8 km NE of Peoria record. Carya ovata (Red-eared Turtle). DeKalb Co: 3.2 km W Sandwich, marsh bordering Somonon Creek. 29 April 1972. HDW 1219. Extends range 66.8 km NE, 86.4 km E, and 68.8 km W of nearest records. Lake Co: Fox Lake, Pistakee Lake. 14 Sept. 1974. Extends range 9.6 km N of previous Illinois records. Heterodon platyrhinos (Eastern Hog-nose Snake). Knox Co: Maquon. 7 Sept. 1970. HDW 1100. Grundy Co: Coal City. 12 July 1974. HDW 1359. Ophodryas vernalis Blanchardi (Western Smooth Green Snake). DeKalb Co: 9.6 km S DeKalb, under railroad ties bordering tracks. 15 Sept. 1972. HDW 1233, and five eggs, hatched same date, HDW 1229-1231. Extends range 57.5 km NW, 75.2 km NE and 38.4 km S of previously known localities.

HARLAN D. WALLEY, Department of Biology, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois 60115.

Literature Cited


Loose leaf n.p.


Only records of exact localities were used and many regions have not yet been researched herpetologically. Unique symbols are used for each taxon. By variation of the significant fundamental symbols, the different taxa are linked hierarchically (for example, all Scincids are listed by a square basic symbol, all members of the genus Eremias by a rhombus). A detailed index of literature refers to all sources used for this revision.

I would be thankful for receipt of other documented records to supplement those of this paper.

Footnote: Agama caucasia microleptos has been regarded as a synonym of Agama erythroogastra in the sense of Clark, R.J. et al., 1966.

LITERATURE CITED


The maps and legends are shown on the following pages.

H. H. SCHLEICH, Blumenstrasse 21, 8000 Munchen 2, West Germany.