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HERPETOLOGICAL
REVIEW

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Herpetological Review

VOLUME 5, NUMBER 4

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"LETTER TO THE EDITOR"

Dear Sir:

A disturbing irony appeared in the most recent mailing from the SSAR. Two items shared the same envelope. Herpetological Review contained a report of a meeting that discussed the effects of conservation laws on herpetological research, and concluded with a statement emphasizing the need "to fully utilize any animal taken from the wild for research and public education purposes" (vol. 5, p. 42). The second item, the Journal of Herpetology, included a paper that reported the capture of 14,282 sea snakes in the Gulf of Thailand (vol. 8, pp. 201-210).

The stated goal of the research, which was supported in part by the Office of Naval Research, was collection of data concerning "the relative abundance of each species" and "The amount and toxicity of venoms obtained from each sea snake . . ." It seems improbable that all 14,282 snakes were fully utilized, especially considering that they were obtained in only three trips. If venom was really collected from all the snakes, it should supply the world's entire research needs for the foreseeable future.

The paper contained no clear statement of what happened to the snakes -- whether all were killed or some released alive, whether venom was extracted from every individual, whether the snakes were placed in a museum collection after venom was collected, or whether there were reasons for collecting so many snakes. The author of the paper did not reply to my letter to him raising these questions.

The SSAR, according to its Constitution, intends "To encourage conservation of wildlife in general and amphibians and reptiles in particular." Achieving this laudable goal will require some efforts that we are apparently not presently making. I suggest that it should be the Society's policy that the ecological impact of research be considered both when a project is planned and when a manuscript is submitted for publication. While it is not possible to draw a priori guidelines of what is and is not permissible to apply to all experiments or all experimental animals, it is possible, a posteriori, to identify work that has exceeded the bounds of what is reasonable and necessary.

Secondly, many biologists are conscientious in designing their research to make full use of the experimental animals and to minimize ecological impact. I think that these people deserve credit for their efforts -- a brief sentence in a paper noting the ultimate disposition of the experimental animals would help to accomplish that.

Although it is foreign to the ivory tower to allow such considerations as public opinion to influence our pure research, we must realize that the public attention we are trying to focus on the plight of endangered species will fall on our own experiments as well. If we do not practice what we preach, we risk losing the confidence of both the public and legislators, and dooming our conservation efforts to defeat.

F. Harvey Pough

10-18-74

MORE ABOUT THE SSAR-HL AUBURN
UNIVERSITY MEETINGS (11-14 AUGUST 1974)

The Auburn University meetings were among the most pleasant ever held. Drs. Robert H. Mount and Geroge W. Folkerts served as co-chairmen. They treated those attending to some real hospitality and well organized meetings.

The SSAR Board met on the afternoon and evening of 11 August.

1) Potentially new publications or publication series were discussed and these included a translation series and a checklist for North American amphibians and reptiles.

2) The Board approved issuing 15 Catalogue accounts for six dollars. No time period is being stipulated for their issuance.

3) The meeting site for 1975 was approved and is California State University, Fullerton, California. The meeting Chairman is Dr. William Presch and the dates are 11-14 August.

4) Miami University of Ohio was considered as the 1976 meeting site.

5) Harry Greene, University of Tennessee, Knoxville won the SSAR Student Prize for his paper, "Defensive tail display by snakes and amphisbaenians. J. of Herpetology 7(3): 143-161.

6) SSAR membership (25 July 1974) included 1,202 individual & institutional members (63 life, 783 U.S., 104 foreign and 252 institutional).

7) SSAR provided \$140 for the preservation of the Monte Verde Cloud Forest in Costa Rica, Central America.

8) A budget of \$23,100 was adopted for 1975.

9) SSAR membership dues for 1975 are: \$8 students, \$10 regular members, \$15 sustaining and \$20 contributing.

10) The Nominating Committee announced the slate of candidates:

For Chairman-elect
James L. Vial
W. Ronald Heyer

For Director
John Wright
James Murphy

For Secretary
J. W. Edward Wortham
Stephen R. Edwards

For Treasurer
Henri Seibert

Other highlights of the Auburn meeting included:

1) a well attended symposium on "the long-term effects of ecosystem alterations on amphibian & reptile populations,"

2) a social which featured some impromptu swimming.

3) an excellent and well cared for live animal exhibit,

4) great food and conservation at the catfish fry in Chewacla State Park,

5) field trips to the Red Hills & Cheaha Mountains.

We extend a hearty "well done" to Drs. Folkerts, Mount, the Local Committee and all those wonderful Auburnites who worked so diligently to make these meetings a great success.

SSAR COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS - 1975

Local Committee 1975 Meeting

SSAR-HL Annual Meeting will be held
at California State University,
Fullerton, Calif., August, 1975.
Dr. W. Presch, Local Chairperson

Liaison with Regional Societies

James B. Murphy, Chairperson
Stanley Dyrkacz
Malvin Skaroff
Tom Johnson
Gopher Carlson
Michael Long

Membership Committee

NEED CHAIRPERSON

Financial Planning (Resources)
(not formed)

Society Publications

Kraig Adler, Chairperson (Facs.Repts.)
Henri Seibert (Publ. Sec.)
James Christiansen (Asst. Publ. Sec.)
J. P. Kennedy (J. Herp.)
M. A. Nickerson (Herp. Review)
R. G. Zweifel (Catalogue)
S. R. Edwards (Circulars)
C. G. Jackson (HL, Ex-Officio)

Facsimile Reprints Subcommittee

Kraig Adler, Chairperson
R. Donoso-Barros
D. A. Rossman
A. H. Savitsky
Michael Tyler
J. W. Wright

Nominating Committee

C. J. McCoy, Chairperson
A. H. Brame, Jr.
J. R. Dixon
D. A. Rossman
A. H. Savitsky

Student Prize Committee

R. L. Bezy, Chairperson
Federico Achaval
M. J. Littlejohn

Future Meeting Sites (SSAR-HL)

F. S. Hendricks, Chairperson
(remainder of committee being revised)

Advisory Committee on Systematic
Resources in Herpetology (joint ASIH,
SSAR, HL Committee)

D. B. Wake, Chairperson
R. G. Zweifel, Vice Chairperson
H. C. Dessauer
Geo. Nace
Eric Pianka
G. B. Rabb
J. W. Wright
G. R. Zug
Rodolfo Ruibal

Recent Herpetological Literature

J. W. Wright, Chairperson
C. J. McCoy
W. R. Heyer
M. A. Nickerson

SSAR Committee on Common & Scientific
Names

J. W. Wright, Chairperson
C. J. McCoy
J. T. Collins
S. R. Edwards (Ex-Officio)

Conservation Committee (joint SSAR, HL)

G. Folkerts, Chairperson
R. B. Bury, Vice Chairperson
H. W. Campbell, Vice Chairperson
R. McDiarmid, SE Coord.
Glenn Stewart, West. Coord.
R. A. Thomas, Plains Coord.
Allen Vinegar, NE Coord.
Rene Honegger, Internl. Coord.
C. Carpenter, Ex-Officio
R. Worthington, Ex-Officio
B. H. Banta
Jim Christiansen
J. T. Collins
R. Conant
D. Ferguson
Wayne King
J. McCoy
Dean Metter
M. A. Nickerson
Norm Scott
Henri Seibert
Phil Smith
Dave Snyder

SSAR THANKS YOU!

Once again it is our pleasure to acknowledge those individuals who have helped the SSAR by becoming contributing or sustaining members. For the year 1974 we had 47 contributing members and 137 sustaining members. This response, which netted \$613, was enough to cover the costs of our embryonic Circular program.

Henri C. Seibert

Contributing

Atkins, D.L. 20006	Fawcett, J. D. 68101	Nickerson, M. A. 53233
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Thomson, D. 15101
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Wood, D. 15236
Worthington, R. D. 79968
Wright, J. W. 90007
Young, D. H. 37055
Zappalorti, R. 10310
Zegel, J. 30083
Zenisek, C. J. 15701



What say we just send out for pizza?

THE SSAR CONSERVATION FUND

The following members contributed to the SSAR's Conservation Fund thereby enabling us not only to get this program started but also to make a modest contribution to the Monteverde Cloud Forest Preserve (Herp. Rev. 5:8). It is never too late to contribute to this worthy project. - H.C.S.

Abercrombie, C. L.	5.00
Applegarth, J. S.	2.00
Bury, R. B.	35.00
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Cooper, J. E.	10.00
Cowles, R. B.	20.00
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Stewart, G. R.	2.00
Weaver, J. A.	25.00
Wis. Herpetological Society	12.00
Worthington, R. D.	1.00

NEW SOCIETY

A new herpetological society has been organized for the Western Massachusetts area. Dues are \$5.00 per year and anyone interested in joining the society is requested to apply to:

W.M.H.S.
Box 151
Highland Station
Springfield, Mass. 01109
Attn: Jan Thompson

"SHARE AND LEARN" SYMPOSIUM IS SUCCESS

On the third weekend in July, herpetologists from four states attended a series of meetings in Louisville, Kentucky, sponsored by the Kentucky Herpetological Society. A total of over fifty individuals were involved in the two days of activities. The topic of the conference was "Share and Learn", and was aimed at encouraging herpetologists to join in dialogue for mutual benefit.

The first meeting was held on Saturday, July 20 at the University of Louisville. Tom Collins of the University of Kansas and Burt Monroe of the University of Louisville shared some of the current problems in the herpetology of Kentucky and encouraged work in several areas. Mike Douglas, University of Louisville, and John MacGregor, University of Kentucky, both presented slide presentations on some of the work which they have recently done in the state. This was followed by a tour of University of Louisville's collection of living and preserved specimens.

Sunday's (July 21) activities began with a field trip to a woodland pond in Bernheim Forest, south of Louisville. This very active pond has been the subject of intense study by Mike Douglas, who guided us through some of his research procedures.

The climax of the weekend was the regular monthly meeting of the Kentucky Herpetological Society. The keynote speaker, Dr. Sherman A. Minton, Jr., assisted by his wife, Madge, gave an excellent presentation on the surprising, if not unassisted mobility of many species of the world's herpetofauna.

This two day symposium gave everyone involved a chance to acquaint themselves with some of the work being done and need for additional research in Kentucky herpetology. In addition, it gave all a chance to get acquainted with each other, colleagues in a common task. The group departed with a pledge to continue such get-togethers.

William W. Milstead, 46; Professor of Biology, University of Missouri - Kansas City, died 29 November, succumbing to the effects of a lifetime of diabetes. Author of more than 40 articles and books, he is best known for his contributions to evolution in box turtles (*Terrapene*) and lizard ecology. He was a life member of the A.S.I.H. Board of Governors, 1961-1966), H.L. (Executive Council, 1966-1969) and S.S.A.R. (Board of Directors, 1970-1973).

ANNOUNCEMENT

PRACTICAL HUSBANDRY, MEDICINE, AND SURGERY OF CAPTIVE REPTILES

A 2-day intensive course for veterinarians, personnel in research and educational institutions, herpetologists, zoological garden keepers, and sophisticated amateurs concerned with health care of reptiles is being offered 8-9 March 1975 at the American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th Street, New York City.

Lecture and discussion topics include husbandry, medicine, pathology, and surgery. The instructor, Fredric L. Frye, D.V.M., is noted specialist in veterinary care of reptiles. His book "Husbandry, Medicine and Surgery of Captive Reptiles" will be available to course participants at a reduced price.

Pre-enrollment is advised to assure participation. The course fee is \$60, but a reduced fee of \$50 will be available to members of the Herpetologists' League and/or of the Amer. Soc. of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists.

For application forms and further information contact:

Nathan W. Cohen, Director
Curriculum Development in Science
University Extension
2223 Fulton Street
Berkeley, California 94720
Telephone: (415) 642-1061

BULLFROG EATING A BIRD

The Bullfrog, *Rana catesbeiana*, is a well-known frog with a voracious appetite, always ready to eat whatever it can get. The following observations were made between Corvallis and Albany, Benton County, Oregon. A movement in shallow water along the margin of a small pond was noticed. Investigation showed a solitary bullfrog about two feet from the sandy shore with the posterior half of a bird hanging from its mouth. The bullfrog was in floating and emergent aquatic vegetation and did not move as photographs were taken. The total length of the bird was approximately equal to the snout-vent length of the bullfrog. No apparent difficulty in swallowing the bird was noted. Attempts to capture the bullfrog resulted in its retreat to deeper water with neither bullfrog nor bird being collected. Dr. George M. Sutton, University of Oklahoma, identified the bird as probably a juvenile Red-winged Blackbird.

Jeffrey Howard Black
Department of Biology
Oklahoma Baptist University
Shawnee, Oklahoma 74801



A Xanthic *Chrysemys scripta elegans*

Albinism (Cagle, 1947; Hensley, 1959) and melanism (Viosca, 1933; Carr, 1952; McCoy, 1968) have been described from the turtle *Chrysemys scripta*. Xanthism has not been previously reported from this species. A xanthic juvenile *Chrysemys scripta elegans* (49 mm carapace length) was collected 15 June 1973 at the Darrell Saul Minnow Farm, 3 mi. E. Des Arc, Prairie County, Arkansas and given to Griffin (Fig. 1). Kodachromes of the turtle were sent to Ernst for identification. The turtle is alive and in the possession of Griffin.

Instead of the typical green to olive, the ground color of the carapace is bright yellow, especially the cervical, marginals, and pleurals. The amount of yellow pigment is less on the vertebrals, but is still greater than usual. The carapacial pattern is reversed from normal with light green markings bordered by dark green on a yellow background instead of yellow markings on a darker background. The plastron and bridge coloration and pattern are normal.

The head pattern is atypical as the red postorbital stripes are enlarged and spread dorso-medially with the left fusing posteriorly with a broadened, red, prefrontal arrow. The postorbital stripes widen posteriorly and extend well onto the neck where they are separated dorsally by a narrow, green bordered, yellow stripe. Anteriorly the postorbital stripes move dorsally over the eyes. There is also a large red spot behind and above the right eye. The pigmentation of the eye, underside of the chin and neck and limbs is normal.

Fig. 1. Xanthic *Chrysemys scripta elegans* from Prairie County, Arkansas.

LITERATURE CITED

- CAGLE, FRED R. 1947. Color abnormalities in *Pseudemys scripta troostii* (Holbrook). Nat. Hist. Misc. (6):1-3.
- CARR, ARCHIE. 1952. Handbook of turtles. Cornell Univ. Press, Ithaca, N.Y. pp. 1-529.
- HENSLEY, MAX. 1959. Albinism in North American amphibians and reptiles. Publ. Mus. Michigan St. Univ. Biol. Serv. 1(4):133-159.
- MCCOY, C.J. 1969. The development of melanism in an Oklahoma population of *Chrysemys scripta elegans* (Reptilia: Testudinidae). Proc. Oklahoma Acad. Sci. 47:84-87.
- VIOSCA, PERCY, JR. 1933. The *Pseudemys troostii* - *elegans* complex, a case of sexual dimorphism. Copeia 1933 (4) : 208-210.

HARRALL C. GRIFFIN, JR. and
CARL H. ERNST
554 Jeanne Drive, Memphis, TN 38109 and
Department of Biology, George Mason
University, Fairfax, Virginia 22030



Husbandry, Medicine & Surgery in **CAPTIVE REPTILES**

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GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

CAUDATA

EURYCEA LUCIFUGA (Cave salamander). U.S.A., Indiana, Vanderburgh Co., 2 mi W Evansville; 13 June 74; Lodato, Winternheimer, Prectel and Flittner. M. J. Lodato. Univ. Michigan Mus. Zoo., UMMZ 133295-6. First record for county; indicates occurrence of relict population in the hiatus between uplands in south central Indiana and extreme southern Illinois. Submitted by MICHAEL J. LODATO, Middle Mississippi Valley Herpetologists, 925 Park Plaza Dr., Evansville, In 47715.

SALIENTIA

BUFO OLIVACEOUS (Baluchistan coastal toad). IRAN, Strait of Hormoz, Hormoz Island; 25 March 1974; R. G. Tuck. R. Khaza'ie and R. G. Tuck. Muze-ye Melli-ye Tarikh-e Tabi'i, MMTT 499500. First record of amphibian for island. Submitted by ROBERT G. TUCK, Jr., Muze-ye Melli-ye Tarikh-e Tabi'i, Department of the Environment, P.O. Box 1430, Teheran, IRAN.

BUFO SURDUS LURISTANICUS (Lorestan toad). IRAN, Khuzistan Province, 6 kilometers W Pol-e Jeh Jeh; 21-22 March 1974; D. M. Lay. R. Khaza'ie and R. G. Tuck. Muz. Mel. Tar. Tab., MMTT 218-220. Third known locality, others being the type locality in Lorestan Province and Masjed-e Suleiman in Khuzistan (Eiselt, J., Ann. Naturhistor. Mus. Wien, (1973) 77: 181-243). Submitted by ROBERT G. TUCK, Jr.

GASTROPHRYNE CAROLINENSIS (Eastern narrow-mouthed toad). U.S.A., North Carolina, Guilford Co., 5 mi N Greensboro, Guilford Courthouse National Military Park; 7 August 1974; K. L. Becker, H. T. Hendrickson and J. E. Wiley. W. Palmer. North Carolina State Mus. Nat. Hist. NCSM 14082. First record for county, extends North Carolina range into the northern Piedmont. Submitted by H. T. HENDRICKSON, Department of Biology, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Greensboro. NC 27412

HYLA SQUIRELLA (Squirrel treefrog). U.S.A., North Carolina, Guilford Co., 5 mi N Greensboro, Guilford Courthouse National Military Park, 7 August 1974; K. L. Becker, H. T. Hendrickson and J. E. Wiley. W. Palmer. North Carolina State Mus. Nat. Hist., NCSM 14083. First record for county, extends North Carolina range at least 80 mi W of the Fall Line into the central Piedmont. Submitted by H. T. HENDRICKSON.

RANA MACROCNEMIS PSEUDODALMATINA (Iranian long-legged wood frog). IRAN, Gilan Province, between Asalem and Khal-Khal (Heroabad); 10 May 1974; R. Khaza'ie, M. Thireau, K. Kimball and R. G. Tuck. R. Khaza'ie and R. G. Tuck. Muz. Mel. Tar. Tab., NMTT 44951. Previously known from five specimens from type locality in Mazandaran Province. Submitted by ROBERT G. TUCK, Jr.

SAURIA

COLEONYX VARIEGATUS (Banded gecko). MEXICO, Gulf of California, Baja California del Sur, Isla Coronados, SW end, 27° 07' N 111° 17' W; 25 May 1970; S. C. Williams, V. F. Lee. R. W. Murphy. California Acad. Sci., CAS 127459. The juvenile gecko appears similar to *C. v. slevini* in all respects except in having four instead of three gular scales in contact with the first infralabials; first record for this island. Submitted by ROBERT W. MURPHY, Department of Herpetology, California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA 94118.

CYRTODACTYLUS SCABER (Keeled rock gecko) IRAN, Strait of Hormoz, Hormoz Island; 31 March 1974; A. Ahmadi. R. Khaza'ie and R. G. Tuck. Muz. Mel. Tar. Tab., MMTT 228-229. First record of any lizard for Hormoz Island. Submitted by ROBERT G. TUCK, Jr.

LACERTA TRILINEATA MEDIA (Median three-lined lizard). IRAN, Loristan Province; Oshtrankuh Protected Region, Dare Asbar; 13 May 1974; R. Khaza'ie, M. Thireau and R. G. Tuck. R. Khaza'ie and R. G. Tuck.

Muz. Mel. Tar. Tab., MMTT 458-459.
First record for Loristan Province.
Submitted by ROBERT G. TUCK, Jr.

PHRYNOSOMA MODESTUM (Round-tailed horned lizard). U.S.A., Texas, Zapata Co., H. B. Zachry Randado Ranch, 26 mi NE Zapata; 25 October 1970, 19 July and 25 September 1971; J. H. Everitt and I. Higginbotham. A. H. Chancy. Texas A and I Univ. collection, TAIC 2238, 2671, 2679. The first known record for southern Texas extends the range southward approximately 175 miles from Kinney Co. record (Raun and Gehlbach, Dallas Mus. Nat. Hist. Bull. (1972)2). Submitted by JAMES H. EVERITT, USDA, Agricultural Research Service, P. O. Box 267, Weslaco, TX 78596.

SCELOPORUS UNDULATUS CONSOBRINUS (Southern prairie lizard). U.S.A., Arizona, Pima Co., 10.6 Km SSE Arivaca; 19 March 1972; S. F. Hale. S. F. Hale. Univ. Arizona, Dept. Zool., UAZ 37828. First record west of Santa Cruz River basin in southern Arizona extends range westward approximately 90 mi. Submitted by STEPHEN F. HALE, 1449 E Tenth St., Tucson, AZ 85719.

SERPENTES

COLUBER RHODORHACHIS (Cliff racer). IRAN, Strait of Hormoz, Hormoz Island; 25 March 1974; R. G. Tuck. R. Khaza'ie and R. G. Tuck. Muz. Mel. Tar. Tab., MMTT 516. First colubrid record for Hormoz Island. Submitted by ROBERT G. TUCK, Jr.

ECHIS CARINATUS (Saw-scaled viper). IRAN, Strait of Hormoz, Hormoz Island; 23 September 1973; M. T. Farvar, R. B. Nehring. R. G. Tuck. Muz. Mel. Tar. Tab., MMTT 118. First viperid record for Hormoz Island. Submitted by ROBERT G. TUCK, Jr.

LYTORHYNCHUS RIDGEWAYI (Afghan owl-headed snake). IRAN, Semnan Governorate, Dasht-e Tal, ca. 30 Km SSE Shahrud; 25 April 1974; R. Khaza'ie, M. Thireau, J. Nouri and R. G. Tuck. R. Khaza'ie and R. G. Tuck. Muz. Mel. Tar. Tab., MMTT 279-280. First record for north central Iran. Submitted by ROBERT G. TUCK, Jr.

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11 - 14 AUGUST 1975

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FULLERTON

Tentative Schedule of Events:

- 17 Aug., Sunday - 1200-1600 - Registration, SSAR Board Meeting
(1600)
- 18 Aug., Monday - 0800-1200 - Registration
- 1300-1630 - Contributed Papers and/or Symposia
- 2000- ?? - Evening Social
- 19 Aug., Tuesday - 0900-1200 - Contributed Papers and/or Symposia
- 1330-1530 - Contributed Papers and/or Symposia
- 1600-1800 - SSAR Business Meeting
- 1800-2100 - Informal Dinner
- 20 Aug., Wednesday - 0900-1200 - Contributed Papers and/or Symposia
- 1330-1630 - Contributed Papers and/or Symposia
- 21 Aug., Thursday - Field Trips

All meetings are scheduled on the Cal. State Univ., Fullerton Campus. Dormitory facilities adjacent to campus are available. They consist of rooms with private bath facilities. The fee schedule is based on the number of room occupants per day and is as follows: one - \$6.00, two - \$7.00, three - \$9.00, and four - \$11.00. Several moderately priced motels are within three to five miles of the campus. Dining facilities will be available at the dormitory. A meal package is available for Sunday dinner through Thursday breakfast for \$20.00 (11 meals), ALL you can eat! Several restaurants are within easy walking distance of the campus.

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slide, _____ motion picture.

Is this paper to be considered in the Student Prize Competition?
_____ yes, _____ no.

Abstract: Type abstract (100 words maximum) on a separate sheet of
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Return this form and abstract by 1 June 1975 to JOHN W. WRIGHT,
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participants which would occupy _____ minutes of program time.

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CARIBBEAN RESEARCH

MARGARET M. STEWART (Dept. of
Biological Sciences, State University of
New York, 1400 Washington Ave., Albany,
New York 12222) is currently conducting
research on niche breadth and
competitive interactions between
sympatric species of Jamaican
Eleutherodactylus. Investigations
include habitat specializations, spatial
relationships, food habits, reproductive
potential, and possible character
displacement for species pairs. Special
attention is being given to ecological
relationships between two introduced
species, *E. johnstonei* and *E.*
planirostris, and how they co-exist with
native species assemblages.

CARL H. ERNST (Dept. of Biology,
George Mason University, Fairfax,
Virginia 22030) has initiated a
taxonomic study of the genus
Rhinoclemys. He hopes to eventually
expand the project into an ecological
study of *R. punctularia* on Trinidad.

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BACK COVER

Typhlotriton spelaeus, Grotto Salamander (adult) from Missouri. Photo: Joseph T. Collins, Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas.

