

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

DIADOPHIS PUNCTATUS (Ringneck Snake). FLORIDA: GULF Co: near St. Joe Bay State Buffer Preserve across from Treasure Bay Lodge. Travis W. Taggart. 4 January 2004. MHP 8150. Verified by Curtis Schmidt. First record for county (Ashton & Ashton 1988. Handbook of Reptiles and Amphibians of Florida. Part I. The Snakes. Second Edition. 176 pp.).

Submitted by **TRAVIS W. TAGGART**, Sternberg Museum of Natural History, Fort Hays State University, Hays, Kansas

RHADINAEA FLAVILATA (Pine Woods Snake). FLORIDA: GULF Co: within Mexico Beach city limits. Alex Pyron. 23 December 2002. MHP 7423. Verified by Joseph T. Collins. First record for county (Ashton & Ashton 1988. Handbook of Reptiles and Amphibians of Florida. Part One. The Snakes. Second Edition. 176 pp.).

Submitted by **ALEX PYRON**, Department of Biology, Piedmont College, P. O. Box 10, Demorest, Georgia 30535.

LIFE HISTORY NOTES

LAMPROPELTIS CALLIGASTER (Prairie King-snake). Winter Activity. A freshly-killed specimen was discovered by the author on a diagonal road just north of Lone Star Lake Dam, Douglas County, Kansas, on 27 December 2003. Specimen was ca. 1 meter in total length and the temperature was ca. 45°F.

Submitted by **JAMES A. PILCH II**, Tertiary Oil Recovery Project, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas 66045.

KINOSTERNON FLAVESCENS (Yellow Mud Turtle) Abnormal Characteristic: On 8 May 2001, while conducting a survey of the Smoky Valley Ranch, a shortgrass prairie preserve located in southeast Logan County, Kansas, I encountered a rather unique Yellow Mud Turtle (*Kinosternon flavescens*). This specimen was of particular interest because it possessed abnormal numbers of digits on both its forelimbs. The left manus possessed eight digits, including claws, while the right manus possessed seven clawed digits (Fig. 1). After inspection of 45 specimens deposited in the Fort Hays State University collection at the Museum of the High Plains (MHP), Sternberg Museum of Natural History, the normal number of digits appears to be five on each forelimb.

The turtle was captured in a small, ephemeral pool along a tributary of the Smoky Hill River. This particular pool was shallow with a silt substrate and contained no emergent vegetation and little shoreline vegetation, the preferred habitat of this species (Collins, 1993 Amphibians and Reptiles in Kansas. Third edition. University Press of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas. 397 pp.). The pool was frequently used by

cattle as a watering hole. Although this particular pool dried up later in the year, a nearby pool retained water year-round.

This specimen is housed in the collection at the Sternberg Museum of Natural History (MHP) with the following information: *Kinosternon flavescens*. MHP 6844. USA: Kansas: Logan Co: 3.5 mi S & 8.5 mi E Russell Springs (Sec. 5, T14S, R33W), Smoky Valley Ranch. Date: 8 May 2001. Collector: Curtis J. Schmidt.

Submitted by **CURTIS J. SCHMIDT** and **TRAVIS W. TAGGART**, Sternberg Museum of Natural History, Fort Hays State University, Hays, Kansas 67601.



Figure 1. A specimen (MHP 6844) of the Yellow Mud Turtle (*Kinosternon flavescens*) from Logan County, Kansas, showing the abnormally large number of digits. Photograph by Curtis J. Schmidt.