

NOTES ON A COLLECTION OF AMPHIBIANS AND  
REPTILES FROM MONROE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

RONALD A. BRANDON and NATHAN R. AUSTIN  
*Southern Illinois University, Carbondale*

ABSTRACT. — *Scaphiopus holbrooki*, the eastern spadefoot, is reported from Monroe County, Illinois, for the first time. Additional specimens of *Elaphe guttata emoryi*, the Great Plains rat snake, and *Tantilla gracilis hallowelli*, the northern flatheaded snake, are noted.

During the months of April and May, 1965, the junior author collected amphibians and reptiles along the blacktop road connecting the town of Prairie du Rocher in Randolph County, and Illinois Route 3, one mile south of Columbia, in Monroe County, Illinois. One species is previously unreported from Monroe County, and specimens of two others are of interest due to the paucity of material from Illinois (cf. Smith, 1961).

*Scaphiopus holbrooki*

Smith (op. cit.) reported 20 specimens of this species, ranging from 26 to 59 mm snout to vent, from Alexander, Jackson, Johnson, and Union counties. Our one male specimen (SIU II-2095), 73 mm snout to vent, was found three miles north of Fults during the evening of 24 April 1965. In addition to extending the known range in Illinois northwestward by two counties and about 60 miles, the specimen increases the known body length of Illinois specimens by 14 mm.

*Elaphe guttata emoryi*

According to Smith (op. cit.) six specimens are known from Illinois, and four of these are from Monroe County. Our four additional specimens were collected along the Fults to Valmeyer Road, and in addition to increasing the number

of extant Illinois specimens, they enlarge the known range of variation here in some scale characters. On 14 May 1965, SIU R-1234 was collected 2½ miles north of Prairie du Rocher; SIU R-1238, 1 mile south of Valmeyer; and SIU R-1202, 9 miles north of Valmeyer. On 22 May a fourth specimen, SIU R-1211, represented by only the head and tail, was found 8 miles north of Fults. All were found dead on the road. The specimens, two males, one female, and one undetermined juvenile, vary as follows, respectively: total length 1070, 1050, unknown, 450 mm; tail 17.7, 17.5, unknown, 17.7% of total length; ventrals number 208, 209, unknown, 224; caudals 70, 63, 60, 81; dorsal blotches 44, 48, unknown, 39; blotches on tail 12, 12, 10, 11; infralabials 10-10, 11-11, 12-11, unknown; supralabials 8-8, 8-8, 8-8, unknown; body scale rows 25-25-19, 24-27-18, unknown, unknown.

*Tantilla gracilis hallowelli*

Of the 13 known specimens collected in Illinois, three are females from Monroe County (Smith, op. cit.). One additional specimen (SIU R-1229), a female, was collected 10 April 1965, 2 miles south of Fults. Its total length is 200 mm, the tail makes up 22.5% of total length, and it has 125 ventrals, 46 caudals, 15 scale rows, 6-6 supralabials, 6-6 infralabials.

LITERATURE CITED

- SMITH, P. W. 1961. The amphibians and reptiles of Illinois. Illinois Natural History Survey Bulletin 28 (Art. 1):1-298.

Manuscript received April 4, 1966.