



1996 HL LOGO COMPETITION ! HL AWARD FOR GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH

The Herpetologists' League announces a competition among STUDENT members to design a logo for the Society, to be used on its stationary, publications, web page, and other official documents. The logo should be a serious reflection of the Society's interest in outstanding reptile and amphibian research.

To enter the contest, just submit your original black and white illustration and two copies to John Iverson (President, Herp League, c/o Dept. of Biology, Earlham College, Richmond, IN 47374). Entries must be received by 31 December 1996. The winning entry will be chosen by the Board of Trustees and the winner announced at the 1997 Seattle meetings as well as in *Herpetologica*.

Call for Symposium Proposals for the 1998 HL Meeting in Guelph

The Herpetologists' League sponsors thematic symposia for its annual meetings. Any League member may submit a proposal for a symposium for the upcoming meeting by sending a proposal application to the chair of the Symposium Committee. Official sponsorship by the Herpetologists' League allows for the scheduling and announcement of the symposium in the meeting program and registration materials. In addition, a small amount of money (a maximum of \$2000) is available to support sponsored symposia.

Graduate students in herpetology! If you are a Master's or Ph.D. student with some research results, you should seriously consider participating in the annual competition for the HL Award for Graduate Research. Think about giving a paper at the 1997 meetings in Seattle! There are some new rules this year, and more prizes to be won.

Maybe you don't like the idea of competition. Then think of the experience in an entirely different way. The HL considers mentoring younger colleagues and helping them to learn the ropes of practicing science to be the society's most important function. Admittedly, the HL student award competition is more demanding than those of the other herpetological societies, but the chances of winning something are higher, it's more fun, and we submit to you that you'll get a lot out of the experience whether you win the first prize or not.

Consider this: to participate, you must be member of the HL and you must prepare an extended abstract of your work to be circulated to the judges in advance. This four-page abstract must be authored by you alone. Send it to the chair of the HL Award Committee. It is due two months before the first day of the meetings. Then, you submit a normal abstract to the meeting's organizers when the call for papers goes out in the spring. The award committee has prepared instructions for how to present an oral paper and how to write a scientific manuscript. You can get copies from the chair of the award committee.

The judges will review the extended abstracts and pick up to six finalists for the rest of the competition. Once you are identified as a finalist, you are already a winner and you will receive financial assistance to get to the meeting. You also will receive some instructions on how further judging will take place. On the evening before the

Applicants should provide the following information: 1) a statement outlining the name/topic of the symposium, the scope of the planned presentations, the relevance of the topic to herpetology and, if appropriate, to the particular meeting (e.g., timeliness or geographic appropriateness), and the goal of the symposium (not to exceed one single-spaced page of text); 2) a tentative outline of speakers (including presentation of titles and institutional affiliations) indicating the time to be allocated for each presentation and the total length of the symposium (e.g., half-day, full-day). Only speakers that have indicated their willingness to participate should be listed. This should be accompanied by a short (one paragraph) statement explaining how the particular slate of speakers and presentations meets the goals of the symposium as a whole. Note that two or more individuals should be involved with organizing each symposium and that the application should include the addresses, telephone and fax numbers, and e-mail addresses of these organizers.; 3) a budget (not to exceed \$2000) detailing the proposed use of funds requested from the Herpetologists' League. Appropriate expenses include full or partial support of travel, housing and/or registration expenses for symposium participants.

Sponsorship by the Herpetologists' League does not guarantee financial support and symposia may be sponsored and funded at a level lower than that requested by the applicants.

Interested persons should submit their proposals no later than 26 May 1997 to:

Aaron M. Bauer, Herpetologists' League Symposium Chair, Department of Biology, Villanova University, 800 Lancaster Avenue, Villanova, Pennsylvania 19085.

THANKS TO JOE MITCHELL !

As a result of the Herp League elections last fall, Joseph (Joe) Mitchell became

award session (all presentations will be in a single session), the HL will host a dinner for the finalists. After your presentation, you will receive collated comments from the judges on your talk and on your extended abstract. The winner is invited automatically to submit a complete manuscript to Herpetologica, but remember that any and All of you are equally welcome to submit your papers to Herpetologica.

Doesn't this sound like fun? OK, so it's not all fun, but much of it is, and it's thoroughly rewarding to students who choose to participate. We hope to see you in Seattle!

To compete in 1997, submit your extended abstract by 26 April 1997 to: David M. Green, Chair of the HL Award Committee [address below].

Operating Procedures

1. - The Award shall consist of 1) a \$500 cash prize, 2) 10 years of back issues of Herpetologica, and 3) an invitation to submit an expanded full-length manuscript to Herpetologica/Herpetological Monographs (which will be subject to normal review) as a lead article identifying the author as winner of the Award. Other finalists shall receive a travel award of \$200 cash. All prizes shall be awarded at the HL annual business meeting.

2. - To be eligible for the Award, each participant must 1) submit an abstract by the "call for papers" deadline for the annual meeting, 2) submit an extended abstract (4 pages of text, double-spaced, with additional title page, literature cited, tables, and figures) written in format for Herpetologica, due two months before the first day of the annual meeting, and 3) give an oral presentation at the annual meeting. In addition, each participant must be a member of the HL and either a registered graduate student or up to 14 months post-doctoral degree. The extended abstract must be authored solely by the participant.

3. - A general announcement of the Award shall be published annually in the December issue of Herpetologica and in HL Communications.

4. - Materials shall be distributed in advance to participants informing them of the judging criteria, including handouts on how to prepare oral and written papers. The participants should be notified of the availability of this material, which they may obtain by writing the Chair of the Award Committee.

5. - Participants shall send their extended abstracts to the Chair of the Award Committee and send their abstracts to the Local Committee as they would for a regular paper to be presented at the annual meeting.

6. - Three judges shall be appointed by the Chair of the

President-elect of HL. This office carries with it a minimum ten-year commitment to the Society (two as Vice-President, two as President, and six on the Board of Trustees as Past President). However, many of our membership may not realize that prior to that election, Joe had already served the Society diligently for the previous ten years as Secretary. It can truthfully be said that no living person has a more complete knowledge of the Society and all its operations than Joe. Therefore, I hope you will join me in expressing our gratitude to Joe for his outstanding commitment to the Herp. League.

- John Iverson, President, HL.

HL STUDENT MEMBERS: COMING SOON TO A MAIL BOX NEAR YOU...

The HL officers have heard your complaints about your empty mailboxes (we feel your pain) and will take measures to help alleviate the problem. We'll soon send a poll to all of the HL student members so that we can better determine how the Society can meet your needs. We can't find a post-graduation job for you, but maybe we can make your life easier (or at least more interesting) in other ways!

Third World Congress of Herpetology Travel Awards and Donations

The three societies, the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, the Herpetologists' League, and the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles, have applied to the National Science Foundation for a joint Conference Travel Grant. The funds are to assist graduate students and young professional herpetologists to travel to the Third World Congress of Herpetology in Prague, Czech Republic 2-10 August 1997. We are requesting 21 travel awards of \$1428 each. NSF's decision on funding will not be known until after January 1,

Award Committee; two judges may suffice if the number of papers is small. All judges shall read all written submissions and attend all oral presentations.

7. - The judges shall choose a maximum of six finalists from among the participants based upon the quality of their submitted extended abstracts. The Chair of the Award Committee shall identify the finalists to the Local Committee one month prior to the meeting and notify all participants.

8. - The Local Committee is responsible for scheduling all the student finalists' presentations in a single session early in the meeting. In past meetings, the Award Session has been scheduled in the afternoon on the first day of contributed papers, following the plenary session, or on the following morning.

9. - Judges shall meet as soon as possible after the Award session to rank the papers and choose a winner. Ideally, the winner shall be chosen by consensus. Judges are encouraged to identify a runner-up as an "Honorable Mention", if the quality of the papers is high.

10. - Judges shall submit notes on each manuscript and oral presentation in some form to the Chair of the Award Committee, who will collate them and present them to all participants, as a form of constructive feedback on the written and oral presentations.

Judging Criteria

Judges will be looking first at the significance and quality of your scientific work. They will next evaluate the skill with which you are able to communicate your findings in both written and oral formats. As in the scientific community, you will be judged in equal measure by the quality of your scientific work and the quality of your presentation of that work to others. Thus, your manuscript and your oral presentation will have equal weight in determining your ranking in the competition. For your written presentation, remember that you don't have a lot of space in four pages so, above all, be clear and concise.

Judges will evaluate the following:

Introduction - Is the statement of the scientific problem succinct and clear? Is there general significance to the study and does it make a contribution to the field? Is there a clear layout of the remainder of the presentation, to allow your audience to anticipate your findings? [This is important both in written format, where your readers ask themselves why they should read on, and in oral format, where you provide a basis for the audience to remember what you have said.]

Methods - Is the rigor of the study design consistent with expected scientific standards? Are appropriate methods used, including statistics, experimental protocols, and

1997. We are therefore soliciting proposals at this time to be submitted BEFORE January 15, 1997. Awards will be restricted to graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, and young professionals (35 years or less in age) who are members of one of the above herpetological societies and who are US citizens (necessary for NSF awards). Those applying should submit: 1) a statement of their present academic or employment status (e.g., Graduate Student at the University of Illinois; Assistant Professor of Zoology at the University of Tennessee); 2) an abstract of a talk or poster that they plan to present at the Congress; 3) a statement of their need of assistance from their supervisor or department head; 4) a letter confirming participation as a speaker, poster presenter, or convener of a symposium. Applications will be judged by a committee of three (one representative from each Society). Send applications to World Congress Travel Grant, c/o Margaret M. Stewart, President of ASIH, Department of Biological Sciences, University at Albany, Albany NY 12222 . Women and minorities are urged to apply.

At present any travel awards are contingent on funding by NSF of the proposed travel grant. However, organizations and individuals are encouraged to send additional donations for this purpose. Checks should be made out to ASIH, ear marked for World Congress Travel Awards, and sent to the above address. The selection committee will award all funds received.

Information about the Congress can be found on their World Wide Web [page](#) or their mail server wch-source@gli.cas.cz; see Copeia 1995(4), or March 1996 Herpetological Review).

GRAD SCHOOL NEWS...

**Ecology Program at Drexel University:
Featuring the Laboratory of James R.**

controls?

Data Analysis and Interpretation- Is the study design effective and original ? Are the data substantive? Are the analyses appropriate to the question posed? How well did the study answer the question posed ?

Conclusions-Are the conclusions drawn logical and relevant to the data presented, and relevant to the question posed at the beginning? Does the author reveal awareness of assumptions made and limitations to the study and its design? How original and significant is the study? How general and relevant are the findings to progress in this field?

For your oral presentation, judges will also consider: Is the presentation organized and clear, or wordy and otherwise ineffective? Is the presentation logical at all steps? Is the speaker poised and well prepared? Does the speaker address the audience well, using a clear well-modulated voice and maintain good contact with the listeners? Are the slides clear and effective at relaying scientific information? Is the talk well-paced and, in particular, ending well in time to allow questions? How did the audience react to the presentation and how well did the speaker handle their questions?

[Original prepared by: Catherine A. Toft, 1994-1995 Chair of the Award Committee; Revised 1996 by: David M. Green]

For information on how to become a candidate for the HL Award, contact: David Green, 1996-1997 Chair of the HL Award Committee, Redpath Museum, McGill University, 859 Sherbrooke St. W., Montréacuteal, PQ, Canada H3A 2K6; Phone: 514-398-4088; Fax: 514-398-3185.

SPECIAL FEATURE: HERPETOLOGY AT THE CARNEGIE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

On June 1, 1996, the Section of Amphibians and Reptiles, Carnegie Museum of Natural History celebrated its 100th anniversary. In those first one hundred years the collection has grown to a size of over 195,000 specimens. Judged on the criteria of size and diversity of collection, and the number of type specimens, the collection ranks among the ten most important in the US.

HISTORY: During the first three decades, the Section was staffed by part-time volunteer curators. While Section collection and research activity was sporadic, the museum did purchase

Spotila

Since coming to Drexel University in 1988 and becoming the Betz Chair Professor of Environmental Science in 1990, JAMES SPOTILA has built a strong undergraduate and graduate program in Ecology in collaboration with SUSAN KILHAM (marine ecologist), MICHAEL O'CONNOR (biophysical ecologist), and AL LIST (botanist/plant ecologist). The faculty is about to be enhanced by the addition of JOSEPH BERNARDO (previously a post-doc in DAVID HILLIS' lab at the University of Texas -- see the March '96 issue of Communications). Joe managed to get a clause in his contract stating that once he arrives in Philadelphia no more snowfalls in excess of 24 inches will occur. The Spotila lab, which tends to dominate the department in the amount of space that it occupies, the number of graduate students it supports, and the amount of noise it generates, is the focus of this report.

Although the Spotila lab is most focused in the area of physiological and biophysical ecology of amphibians and reptiles, Jim's students have studied everything from marine mollusks to terrestrial plants. Spotila's lab has recently downsized from a whopping 14 graduate students, one post-doc, and countless undergraduates, to only 6 grad students, one post-doc and countless undergraduates.

Four grad students finished their PhD's in the lab in the past 18 months: THOMAS YU (currently in his second year of residency at Temple University) studied the role of heat shock proteins in thermoregulation in salamanders and fish and its potential as a stress indicator; ANNA DUTRA-CLARKE (currently in labor with her 4th child in Alabama where her husband is a post-doc at the University of Alabama-Birmingham) worked on a phylogenetic analysis of snails of the Succineidae from South America; JEANETTE DUMAS (currently in Philadelphia) investigated the factors affecting the abundance and distribution

significant collections from various parts of the world including Brazil, Bolivia and the Bahamas. In addition, the museum mounted its own expedition to the Isle of Pines, Cuba in the early 1900's. The first herpetologist employed full-time by the museum was M. Graham Netting, who started in 1926 and continued as Curator-in-charge until 1955. Netting's interest in his early years focused on systematics and distribution of Neotropical amphibians and reptiles, and he made numerous collecting trips to the Caribbean and northern South America. Later his attention shifted to the Appalachian region, and these collections became the nucleus of the museum's large eastern US holdings.

After 1950, Netting became increasingly involved in museum administration, and was replaced the following year by Neil Richmond. Richmond's first activity was to complete a survey of Pennsylvania amphibians and reptiles, a project which Netting had initiated in the 1930's. He later turned his attention to the systematics of the blindsnake family Typhlopidae, and participated in four expeditions to the Bahamas. Richmond left the Section in 1974.

Clarence (Jack) McCoy joined the Section in 1964. His research interests in the reptiles of Central and South America led to a series of expeditions to those areas (1964-1988). Building on the base of the Neotropical collections established in Netting's tenure, the Latin American resources of the Section continued to grow. While McCoy continued to work in Latin America throughout his career, his emphasis switched in 1974 to systematics and ecology of turtles. He built one of the largest collections of freshwater turtles in the world. C.J. McCoy passed away in July 1993.

Ellen Censky joined the staff of the Section in 1979 as Collection Manager. Shortly after receiving her PhD in 1994, she was promoted to Assistant Curator-in-Charge. Her geographic area of research has been the Caribbean and central South America, and her research interests lie in behavioral ecology of lizards, Caribbean zoogeography, and systematics of *Ameiva*.

The newest member of the Section is John J. Wiens, who joined the staff as Assistant Curator in 1995. Wiens received his PhD from the University of Texas at Austin in 1995. His research interests are the systematics of reptiles and amphibians,

of the green sea urchin (*Strongylocentrotus droebachiensis*) in rocky intertidal pools of New England; and DAVID PENICK (currently lecturing at the University of Connecticut) studied thermoregulation of the leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*).

Four grad students recently finished their MS degrees in the lab: SISTER MAY ANN BESITKA I.H.M. (currently director of the Biology Program at Immaculata High School in Sommerville, NJ) conducted an ecological and historical study of the common reed (*Phragmites australis*) along the Atlantic coast; CHRISTOPHER BINCKLEY (currently working as a research assistant in DAVID ROSTALS' lab at Georgia Southern University and getting paid to catch herps all day long) studied the temperature dependent sex determination and sex ratios of a Pacific leatherback turtle population in Costa Rica; LAURA BRIGGS (currently a researcher at Betz Laboratories) worked on the effects of stress protein (hsp-70) accumulation on the acute toxicity response of the minnow, *Pimephales promelas*; JASON KNOUFT (currently a PhD student at the University of Utah) studied the effects of urbanization and pollution on the home range and movements of brown trout (*Salmo trutta*) in Valley Creek, PA.

The lone post-doc of the lab, PAMELA PLOTKIN, lectures in the Ecology Program, avoids the lab at all costs, and spends most of her non-teaching time at tropical beaches where marine turtles are abundant. Pamela is currently studying the migratory behavior of olive ridley turtles (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) in the Bay of Bengal and Indian Ocean, the reproductive ecology and interesting dive behavior of the leatherback turtle in Costa Rica, and the population dynamics of marine turtles in the Delaware Bay.

There are currently three PhD students in the lab; ALISON LESLIE (*aka* Mama Dundee) is in South Africa wrestling Nile Crocodiles in the St. Lucia Estuary and studying their reproductive and

phylogenetic methodology, and morphological evolution.

In addition to the two full-time curators, the Section currently has a split-time Preparator/Collection Manager (Stephen P. Rogers) and a part-time Curatorial Assistant (Bonnie Isaac).

COLLECTIONS: The area best represented in the collection is the United States, with 75% of the collection of US origin. The local area from which we have the most complete collection is the Appalachians, reflecting 100 years of collecting and acquisition. These collections include recent large donations of Virginia amphibians and reptiles from Joseph Mitchell and Christopher Pague, salamanders from Barry Valentine, and eastern US amphibians from James Fowler. Of course, the Pennsylvania collection is the most extensive in existence.

In addition to the US collections, we have extensive collections from various other parts of the world, including South America, the Caribbean, Africa, and Asia. The earliest South American collections include the Haseman Brazilian Expedition (1907-1910), Colombian specimens from H.H. Smith, collections from the museum expedition to Venezuela (1929-1930), and Bolivian specimens purchased between 1913-1922. In more recent years, emphasis has shifted to southern South America (Chile, Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay), and Central America (Mexico, Belize, Guatemala). The extensive Caribbean collection was established with the Worthington Bahamian collection (1909) and the museum's expedition to the Isle of Pines (1912). It continued to grow with six expeditions to the Bahamas (1942-1976), Coleman J. Goin's gift of Jamaican frogs, extensive donations (including many types) by Albert Schwartz, and recent research by Censky.

The collection from Spain, assembled and donated by Stephen D. Busack (Research Associate) is the largest Spanish collection in the US and constitutes our largest European holdings. The African Continent is well represented with both historical and recent collections. The largest collections (>500 specimens in each) are from Cameroon, South Africa, Namibia, Benen, Nigeria, and Morocco. There are small collections from most other African countries.

The Philippine collection was founded early in

physiological ecology; ANTHONY STEYERMARK is studying the consequences of interindividual and interclutch variation in certain physiological and genetic traits on hatchling and juvenile survivorship and fitness in the common snapping turtle, *Chelydra serpentina*. When Anthony is not working with snapping turtles, he is "working" on Costa Rican beaches studying the physiology and population dynamics of leatherback turtles; JENNIFER ELWOOD is currently travelling all over the the eastern US picking up logs and underbrush in search of the elusive slimy salamander (*Plethodon glutinosus* complex). She plans to study species from montane, piedmont, and coastal plain physiographic regions for inter- and intraspecific differences in thermal ecology, including field body temperatures, critical thermal maxima, preferred temperatures, constitutive heat shock protein levels, and the ability to induce heat shock proteins following heat shock.

Last, but not least, there are 3 MS students in the lab. KAREN RANKIN-BARANSKY is finishing a project on the genetics of loggerhead turtles (*Caretta caretta*) from the northeastern US; LAUREN DOLINGER is studying PCB levels in brown trout in Valley Forge National Part, PA; and CAITLIN CURTIS is conducting a genetic study of the mating system of leatherback turtles on the coast of Costa Rica assessing paternity within and between clutches.

JIM (aka el jefe) is a tireless man who is an active researcher in the lab and in the field, spends a lot of time educating politicians at home and abroad on environmental issues and is involved in several projects developing everything from a Molecular Ecology Program at Drexel University (supported by NSF) to a National Park for leatherback turtles in Costa Rica. Jim is currently collaborating on a project studying the molecular mechanisms of temperature-dependent sex

the history of the museum with the purchase of part of the E.H. Taylor Collection which was rich in type material. More recent acquisitions from Luzon and Marinduque (Hahn Collection) have added to the strength of the Philippine collection. The India collection is more recent in origin. During the past 15 years, Research Associate Carl Gans (representing CMNH) has been conducting a joint Herpetological Survey with the National Museum of Natural History, New Delhi, which has generated a large collection of Indian amphibians and reptiles. Carl Gans also has recently donated a large collection of skeletons to the Section.

The turtle collection is unique in its potential as a systematic resource. It consists of over 26,000 specimens, including more than 3,500 skeletons and a long series of hatchlings incubated at known temperatures. Collections from Richard Vogt, Edward Moll, and Michael Ewert form the nucleus of the turtle collection. The type collection in the Section consists of 2,236 specimens in 440 taxa.

The section's library, recently named The C.J. McCoy Memorial Library, was established in 1914 by the purchase of the reprint collection of Albert C.L.G. Günther, late keeper of Zoology in the British Museum (Natural History). It is rich in 19th Century European literature and contains over 900 bound volumes including all major and many minor herpetological journals. It also contains over 23,000 reprints (all computerized).

The collection, which now consists of over 195,000 specimens, was computerized in 1979. A taxon listing, including the number of specimens of each species housed at Carnegie Museum of Natural History, can be obtained from the Herpetological Combined Museum Listings and can be accessed through the California Academy Gopher at cas.calacademy.org. To receive further information about the collections, please contact Ellen J. Censky or John J. Wiens, Section of Amphibians and Reptiles, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, 4400 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213 (e-mail: censky@clpgh.org or wiensj@clpgh.org; phone: 412-622-3258).

- Money, Money, Money -

**Carnegie Museum of Natural History:
Collection Study Grants in Herpetology**

determination in the red-eared slider (*Trachemys scripta*) with the more famous Spotila, Dr. LAURA SPOTILA (currently at Thomas Jefferson University and Jim's better half). Jim is about to leave on a six month sabbatical (or rather world tour) where he will start off in South Africa wrestling Nile crocodiles at the St. Lucia Estuary with Mama Dundee, and then move on to Stellenbosch University, Capetown, where he will study the biophysical ecology of lizards with J. HANNES van WYCK. After South Africa, Jim travels on to Orissa, India to sit on the smallest and prettiest of sea turtles (the olive ridley) while his post-doc attaches transmitters to their carapaces. After India, Jim will fly on to Australia and visit GORDON GRIGG at the University of Queensland. Jim's world tour ends at the Savannah River Ecology Lab where he will get away from it all and finally write the sea turtle book that he has been writing in his head for the past 15 years.

Herpeto-trivia:

Females of the Australian freshwater turtle *Elseya dentata* reach sexual maturity at about 13.5 years of age (males at about 8.6 yr). The relatively late maturity for this species may be due to a largely, herbivorous, protein-poor diet. - Kennet, R. 1996. *Herpetologica* 52:383-395.

- Conferences, Conventions, Conclaves -

IUCN Northern Indian Ocean Turtle Workshop: 13-18 Jan. 1997, Bhubaneswar, Orissa, India

A regional workshop held under the auspices of the IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Specialist Group (MTSG) and sponsored

The Carnegie Museum of Natural History is pleased to announce a new grant to support herpetological research by graduate students and foreign scientists. The grant is intended to defray the costs of transportation and lodging associated with visiting and using the collection. The Carnegie's herpetological collection contains more than 195,000 specimens, including one of the largest collections of turtles, and extensive holdings from the West Indies, Mexico, South America, Spain, Africa, India, and the Philippines. Applicants should send the following, in duplicate: 1) a description of the proposed research (including its expected significance and the justification for visiting the Carnegie), not to exceed two pages, 2) literature cited, 3) budget, 4) CV. Students should also arrange for two letters of recommendation to be sent. Awards will be made twice a year. **Deadline for application materials are 15 April and 15 November.** Send applications to *Collection Study Grants in Herpetology*, Section of Amphibians and Reptiles, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pittsburgh, PA 15213-4080. For more information contact John Wiens (wiensj@clpgh.org; 412-622-5520; FAX 412-622-8837) or Ellen Censky (censky@clpgh.org; 412-622-3258).

Smithsonian Research Fellowships

The Smithsonian Institution announces its research fellowships for 1997. Smithsonian Fellowships are awarded to support independent research in residence at the Smithsonian in association with the research staff and using the Institution's resources. Under this program, senior, pre- and postdoctoral fellowships of three to twelve months, and grad student fellowships of ten weeks are awarded. Proposals for research in the Biological Sciences include the following areas: animal behavior and pathology, ecology, environmental studies, evolutionary biology, marine biology, natural history, paleobiology, systematics, & tropical biology. **The deadline is 15 January 1997.** For more information and for application forms, contact: Smithsonian Institution

by the US National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) will be held in Bhubaneswar, Orissa, India from 13-18 January 1997. The objectives of this workshop are to develop a regional conservation strategy for marine turtles, improve networking and communication among marine turtle researchers and managers, and train researchers and managers. Country representatives from the region will present current information regarding the status of sea turtle populations; the incidental capture of turtles in fisheries, and other threats to existing populations; and research, monitoring, training, educational, conservation, & management needs and priorities within the region. The workshop is open to anyone who wishes to attend. For more information, contact either Dr. Priyambada Mohanty-Hejmadi, Vice Chancellor, Sambalpur University, JYOTIVIHAR, Sambalpur 768019, Orissa, India, Phone: 91-663-430158, FAX: 91-674-481418 or Dr. Pamela Plotkin, Drexel University, Department of Bioscience & Biotechnology, 32nd and Chestnut Streets, Philadelphia, PA 19104, USA, Phone: 215-895-1436, FAX: 215-895-1273, e-mail: Plotkipt@post.drexel.edu.

Federal and International Scientific Permits:

A workshop for Natural History Museums and Collectors: 29-31 January 1997, San Diego, CA

A bilingual (English/Spanish) workshop will address the confusion and controversy often surrounding the process of applying for and maintaining valid collecting permits. Topics include surveys of permitting agencies in the US, Canada, Mexico and Central America; International regulations and treaties; the Biodiversity Convention; collecting and

Office of Fellowships and Grants, 955 L'Enfant Plaza, Suite 7000, Washington, DC 20560 or e-mail: siofg@sivm.si.edu. Indicate the particular area in which you propose to conduct research and give the dates of degrees received or expected.

Smithsonian Minority Internship Program

Internships, offered through the Office of Fellowships and Grants, are available for students to participate in research and museum-related activities for periods of ten weeks during the summer, fall, and spring. US minority undergraduate and beginning graduate students are invited to apply. The appointment carries a stipend of \$250 per week for undergraduate and \$300 per week for graduate students, and may provide a travel allowance. **The deadline is 15 February.** For applications and/or information, please write Smithsonian Institution Office of Fellowships and Grants, 955 L'Enfant Plaza, Suite 7000, Washington, DC 20560, or e-mail: siofg@sivm.si.edu.

See Also:

- [Funding for symposia at the 1997 HL meeting in Guelph, Ontario.](#)
- [Travel grants for the 3rd World Congress of Herpetology.](#)
- [HL Award for Grad Student Research.](#)

More Herpeto-trivia: A new species of frog from Cuba was given the name *Eleutherodactylus tetajulia*. The name *tetajulia* refers to 2 peaks near the type locality - "the breasts of Julia". (A.R. Estrada and S.B. Hedges. 1996. *Herpetologica* 52:435-439). Who said that taxonomy wasn't sexy science?

Wood Turtles in Ohio?

It has come to my attention that wood turtles claimed to be of Ohio origin are currently being sold on the commercial market by unscrupulous collectors. As a zoologist with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources I would like to set the record straight on the status of this animal

national sovereignty laws; vertebrate, invertebrate, botanical, paleobiological, and microbiological collecting; and the problems facing academic/scientific and amateur collectors. **Early registration is due by 15 November.** For more information contact: Permits Workshop Registration, Director, Collections Care and Conservation, San Diego Natural History Museum, PO Box 1390, San Diego, CA 92112, Phone: 619-232-3821 x 226; Fax: 619-232-0248. e-mail: LIBSDNHM@CLASS.ORG.

- ANNOUNCEMENTS -

**Summer Course at Highlands:
Amphibian Larval Biology**

Next summer, Highlands Biological Station will be offering a summer course in Amphibian Larval Biology to be taught by Dr. Richard Wassersug and guest instructors. The course will run from 2-13 June 1997 and will deal with all aspects of the biology of tadpoles and salamander larvae. Address inquiries to Highlands Biological Station, PO Box 580, Highlands, NC, Phone: 704-526-2602, e-mail bruce@wcu.edu.

Herpetological Videos Available

The International Herpetological Symposium has a series of ten videos available (\$24.95 each or \$160.00 for the entire set; shipping is \$2.50 for the first tape, and \$.50 for additional tapes). Titles include: Turtles, Venomous Reptiles, Reptile Nutrition & Health, Herptile Medicine, Herpetology of Mexico, Snakes, Conservation, Husbandry, Nutrition & Lighting, and Herptile Medley. Contact: Mark Silver Productions, PO Box 15731, Seattle, WA 98115-0231. Phone: 206-527-0135. FAX 206-333-4205. Call or write for a free catalogue.

in Ohio. In short, there is no scientific or documented evidence which would even indicate that wood turtles were ever native to the state of Ohio. No native populations have ever been documented for the state and Ohio certainly does not support wood turtle populations of any kind at this time. As this animal is not a current inhabitant of the state of Ohio, any collector trying to pass off wood turtles as having been captured in Ohio is simply being untruthful.

Eastern Ohio has historically been included by some authors as encompassing the possible range of the wood turtle. This inclusion was based entirely on supposition by some of the early writers as wood turtles were known to inhabit eastern Pennsylvania. There have been 3 isolated records of individual wood turtles being picked up in the state. These individuals can only represent animals which were collected elsewhere, brought into the state and were subsequently released or escaped. Extensive surveys by both professional biologists and amateur herpetologists in eastern Ohio during the last 50 years have failed to identify any populations of this animal in Ohio. The best available evidence covering 150 years of natural history surveys in Ohio clearly indicate that wood turtles have not occurred in the state at any time during this period.

- **Daniel L. Rice**, Chief Zoologist, Division of Natural Areas and Preserve.

HLphabet Game

The following taxa were named in either a 1996 issue of Herpetologica or the 1995 Herpetological Monographs (HM). The object of the game is to identify the taxon; a mostly-ambiguous clue is provided or you can cheat and look on the page number of the journal. Taxa are genera unless otherwise indicated. Have fun!

A _____ quiet viperid snake, 365
 B _____ Latin Amer. venomous snake, 263
 C _____ noisy viperid snake, 343
 D _____ brown salamander, 161
 E _____ brown frog, 435
 F _____ Sp. of Hemidactylus (Asian), 365
 G _____ aquatic turtle, 89
 H _____ plethodontid sal., 293
 I _____ large lizard, 113 (HM)
 J _____ Sp. of Gekko, 109 (HM)
 K _____ Teiid lizard, 109 (HM)

TEXAS REPTILE EXPO The Texas Reptile Expo is a reptile show featuring only captive-bred reptiles. Dates are 26-27 October (Sat/Sun) at the Ball Park Inn Hotel in Arlington, Texas. Admission is \$5 for adults (over 12) and \$1 for children over 6. For more information, contact: James Arnold, PO Box 88, Campbell, TX 75422. Phone (903)862-2291.

- L _____ kingsnake 406
- M _____ African skink, 403
- N _____ neotenic salamander, 160
- O _____ neotropical hylid, 280
- P _____ colubrid snake, 343
- Q _____ pollen-producing tree, 375
- R _____ "true" frog, 241
- S _____ @small, noisy, snake ' 360
- T _____ striped snake (usually), 365
- U _____ phrynosomatid lizard, 46 (2 correct answers)
- V _____ Viviparous natracine snake, 32
- w _____ Sp. of *Stephania* (Venezuela), 279
- X _____ water snake (Taiwan), 205
- Y _____ long-leafed plant, often ornamental, 423
- Z _____ Sp. of *Sceloporus* (Baja), 419

- PUBLICATION NOTICES -

(Note: Descriptive information, when included, was supplied by the publisher. - Ed.)

The Garter Snakes: Evolution and Ecology. By Douglas A. Rossman, Neil B. Ford and Richard A. Seigel. 1996. University of Oklahoma Press. 332 pages plus 15 color plates containing 88 photographs. \$65.95 (hardback). This appealing book, written by the world's leading authorities, is the first comprehensive review of the genus *Thamnophis* in nearly 90 years. Contact: Publishing Division of the Univ. of OK Press, 1005 ASP Avenue, Norman, Oklahoma 73019-0445.

Herpetology of Japan. By Leonhard Stejneger. 1996 (reprint). Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles. 684 pages, 35 plates, 409 text figures, keys, and index. \$58 (cloth). A new facsimile reprint with a new introduction by Masafumi Matsui. This herpetological classic includes Taiwan, Korea, Manchuria, adjacent coastal China, and easternmost Siberia in addition to modern Japan. The author treats 156 species of amphibians and reptiles (13 salamanders, 36 frogs, 31 lizards, 62 snakes, and 14 turtles), providing a complete synonymy, detailed descriptions of typical specimens,

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ssar@sluvcu.slu.edu. Shipping charges are US\$3 for USA and US\$5 for non-USA orders. Make checks payable to SSAR. Orders may be charged to MasterCard or VISA (provide account number and expiration date).

The Amphibians and Reptiles of Louisiana. By Harold A. Dundee and Douglas A. Rossman. 1996. Louisiana State University Press. 300 pages, 126 maps, 24 color plates. \$22.95 (Paperback).

Biology and Conservation of Sea Turtles (revised edition). Ed. by Karen A. Bjorndal. 1996. Smithsonian Institution Press. 615 pages, covering 78 articles that are divided into four major sections: 1) sea turtle biology, 2) status of sea turtle populations, 3) conservation theory, techniques, and law, and 4) recent advances in sea turtle biology and conservation. \$29.95 (paperback)

A Guide to the Reptiles and Frogs of the Perth Region Western Australia. By B. Bush, B. Maryan, R. Browne-Cooper and D. Robinson. University of Western Australia Press. AUS \$20.00 (+ \$4 surface mail postage). 226 pages. Includes species descriptions, color photographs, identification keys, and an extensive glossary. Submit orders to: Western Australian Society of Amateur Herpetologists (WASAH), 169 Egina Street, Mount Hawthorn 6016, Western Australia.

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Communiqués to Communications

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Herpetologically-relevant announcements are included as space allows. Send

questions/comments to: Alicia Mathis, Dept. of Biology, Southwest Missouri State Univ., Springfield, MO 65804-0095. Phone:

417-836-5699; FAX: 417-836-6934; e-mail:

sam477f@vma.smsu.edu.

Snake Lovers' Lifelist and Journal. By C. Scott. 1996. University of Texas Press. \$19.95 (cloth). Lists and describes every known species of snake found in the US and Canada, plus many sub-species, color phases, intergrades, and hybrids for a total of 438 different native and introduced forms. Included are 92 color photographs and line drawings. Contact: University of Texas Press, PO Box 7819, Austin, Texas 78713. Phone: 512-471-4032.

A Guide to the Frogs and Toads of Belize. By J.R. Meyer and C.F. Foser. 1996. 96 pages. Krieger Publishing Co. \$24.50 (hardback). Describes species encountered in Belize and nearby Mexico and Guatemala. Order should include handling fees of \$6.00 for the first book and \$1.50 for additional books. Contact: Krieger Publishing Co., PO Box 9542, Melbourne, FL 32902-9542. Phone: 407-724-9542.

Biogeography of the Reptiles of South Asia. By I. Das. 1996. 112 pages. Krieger Publishing Co. \$27.50 (cloth). Presents an analysis of South Asian fauna (over 634 species represented), highlighting its endemism, the patterns and correlates of species diversity, affinities within the region and with extralimital fauna, and barriers to distribution and speciation. Order should include handling fees of \$6.00 for the first book and \$1.50 for additional books. Contact: Krieger Publishing Co., PO Box 9542, Melbourne, FL 32902-9542. Phone: 407-724-9542.

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More Herpeto-trivia: Mated pairs of tuatara remain in copula for about an hour. J. C. Gillingham et al. 1995. *Herpetol. Monographs* 9:5-16.

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