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Field Notes: Scincella lateralis

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The Rockbridge County skink was observed foraging for arthropods for several minutes along the edge of the gravel and dirt berm beside the wooded edge of the road (FS 439). The site had little to no canopy cover over the road. The road was composed primarily of an exposed shale and limestone gravel with little ground vegetation. The skink was not photographed or vouchered and no measurements were taken. Site elevation was approximately 548 meters.

At the Montgomery County site, one male was captured and released. No measurements were taken and it was not photographed. Sides of the head and throat were reddish-orange. The capture site is at the top of a side-ridge above Craig Creek floodplain at an elevation of approximately 548 meters.

The Rockingham County skink was collected while it was crossing a fire line. The voucher specimen is currently housed at the U.S. Forest Service Supervisor's Office in Roanoke, Virginia. Upon capture, the skink appeared healthy with no ill effects attributed to the fire. Site elevation was between 854 and 975 meters.

At the Augusta County site, one coal skink was captured and released. No measurements were taken and it was not photographed. Upon release, this animal quickly disappeared under the leaf litter, lending the appearance of "swimming" through the leaves. Site elevation was approximately 600 meters.

These accounts and other recent records (Roble, S. M., D. J. Stevenson, and A. C. Chazal. 1998. Field Notes: *Eumeces anthracinus anthracinus*. Catesbeiana 18: 49-52; Laprado, J., A. Laprado, and K. Laprado. 2004. Field Notes: *Eumeces anthracinus*. Catesbeiana 24: 70) are adding to the general knowledge of the distribution of northern coal skinks in the state. It appears that this species is more common than current records indicate, owing to its generally secretive nature and the limited number of field personnel searching for it.

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Field Notes

Eumeces fasciatus (Five-lined Skink). Washington, Co., 18517 Hillbilly Lane, Bristol (UTM: 39.6446, 40.60222). 10 June 2005. David Carrier.

On 10 June 2005, David Carrier submitted to the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries two digital photographs of what he believed to be *Eumeces laticeps* (Broad-headed skink). When male *Eumeces fasciatus* are in breeding colors, they can be easily misidentified as *E. laticeps*. The first two photographs did not show enough detail for conclusive identification. A third photograph of the lateral area of the head was requested, so the scutellation could be used in identification. *Eumeces fasciatus* usually (82.3%) has 4/4 preorbital supralabial scales between the rostral scale and the first supralabial to touch the eye, while *E. laticeps* most frequently demonstrate a 5/5 pattern (53.1%). However, *E. laticeps* will occasionally demonstrate a 4/4 pattern (12.2%) (Mitchell, J. C. 1994. The Reptiles of Virginia. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, DC. 352 pp.). The third photograph was conclusive in identifying this specimen as *E. fasciatus* by clearly showing only 4 preorbital supralabial scales. Additionally, this specimen did not demonstrate the robust body and broad head characteristic of *E. laticeps*. An unidentified second specimen was seen at the same location. This is the first vouchered occurrence for this species in Washington County (Mitchell, *op. cit.*; Mitchell, J. C. and K. K. Reay. 1999. Atlas of Amphibians and Reptiles in Virginia. Special Publication Number 1, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Richmond, VA. 122 pp.). Digital photographs were deposited in the VHS archives (voucher #33).

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Scincella lateralis (Little Brown Skink). VA: Accomack Co., 24326 Finney Drive, Onancock (on Finneys Neck between Parkers and Finneys creeks), near Cashville, ca. 0.45 km NE jct. Co. Rt. 638 and Finney Drive. 11 June 2001. Timothy R., Michele L., and Timothy W. Brophy.

According to Mitchell (1999. Checklist and keys to amphibians and reptiles of Virginia's Eastern Shore. Catesbeiana 19: 3-18), one of "the

basic natural history needs [for the herpetofauna of Virginia's Eastern Shore] is the fact that we do not yet have a full understanding of the distributional patterns for any species." Accordingly, I report on a vouchered record for *Scincella lateralis* from Accomack County. On 11 June 2001 at 2015 h, an adult little brown skink was found scurrying along the cement apron of the garage at 24326 Finney Drive. This residence is in close proximity to both Parkers Creek (ca. 10 m) and a large agricultural field (ca. 25 m). The skink was not captured, but a color photograph has been deposited in the VHS archives (voucher #69).

This is only the third vouchered location for *S. lateralis* from Accomack County (Mitchell, J.C. 1994. The Reptiles of Virginia. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, DC. 352 pp.; Mitchell, J.C. and K.K. Reay. 1999. Atlas of Amphibians and Reptiles in Virginia. Special Publication Number 1, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Richmond, VA. 122 pp.) and the northernmost known locality in the county (ca. 16 km NE of nearest vouchered record in Wachapreague). This species has also been found in Northampton County, Virginia (Mitchell, *op. cit.*; Mitchell and Reay, *op. cit.*) and the southernmost counties of Maryland's Eastern Shore (White, J.F., Jr. and A.W. White. 2002. Amphibians and Reptiles of Delmarva. Tidewater Publishers, Centreville, MD. 248 pp.).

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Lampropeltis getula getula (Eastern Kingsnake). VA: Accomack Co., near Daugherty, jct. Co. Rt. 605 and Custis Creek, ca. 0.8 km S of northernmost jct. Co. Rt. 605 and Co. Rt. 648. 27 June 2005. Michele L., Timothy R., Timothy W., Emily D., and Patricia A. Brophy.

On 27 June 2005 at 1330 h, an adult kingsnake was found in the grass along Co. Rt. 605 adjacent to Custis Creek. This is a small freshwater creek that leads to a marshy area. The weather at the time of capture was clear and sunny. The daily mean temperature was 27.5° C (Accomack

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County Airport, Melfa, VA). The snake was not captured, but a color photograph has been deposited in the VHS archives (voucher #68).

There are several other vouchered records for *L. g. getula* from Accomack County (Mitchell, J.C. 1994. The Reptiles of Virginia. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, DC. 352 pp.; Mitchell, J. C. and K. K. Reay. 1999. Atlas of Amphibians and Reptiles in Virginia. Special Publication Number 1, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Richmond, VA. 122 pp.), but this is one of the two northernmost localities in the county. The eastern kingsnake has also been found in Northampton County, Virginia (Mitchell, *op. cit.*; Mitchell and Reay, *op. cit.*) and the southernmost counties of Maryland's Eastern Shore (White, J.F., Jr. and A.W. White. 2002. Amphibians and Reptiles of Delmarva. Tidewater Publishers, Centreville, MD. 248 pp.).

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Ophedrys vernalis (Smooth Greensnake). VA: Floyd Co., Co. Rt. 660, 3.2 km W jct. Co. Rt. 653. 24 October 2004. Fred B. First, Jr.

On 24 October 2004, I found an immature smooth greensnake (17 cm total length) under a flat rock near an outbuilding at my residence in remote northeastern Floyd County. The location is a south-facing slope at approximately 640 meters (2100 feet) adjacent to regenerating mixed-growth forest. The site is about 100 meters north of Goose Creek, a tributary at the headwaters of the South Fork of the Roanoke River. The snake was photographed and released. An adult smooth greensnake was found crossing a gravel drive less than 30 meters from the above location in late summer 2003. The mature snake (approximately 37 cm total length) was examined and released.

This is the first report of smooth greensnakes from Floyd County (Mitchell, J. C. 1994. The Reptiles of Virginia. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, DC. 352 pp.; Mitchell, J. C. and K. K. Reay. 1999.