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## First Record for the Striped Color Morph of *Plethodon cinereus* from a Lake Erie Island

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## FIRST RECORD FOR THE STRIPED COLOR MORPH OF *Plethodon cinereus* FROM A LAKE ERIE ISLAND

High percentages of the unstriped morph of the red-backed salamander, *Plethodon cinereus*, have been reported from northern Ohio and include a monomorphic unstriped population from South Bass Island (located in the western basin of Lake Erie), Ottawa County, Ohio (Pfungsten and Walker, 1978).

During investigations on the ecology of *P. cinereus* at Victory Woods (1.7 km W Put-In-Bay), South Bass Island, 131 unstriped and 1 striped *P. cinereus* were collected. The striped morph (SV 25mm) was found with several unstriped morphs under a decaying log in typical woodland habitat for *P. cinereus* (Heatwole, 1962). This specimen, being the first record for the striped morph from South Bass Island, was released at the capture site after being photographed.

The nearest *P. cinereus* populations in northern Ohio have greater percentages of striped morphs (7-80% striped; Pfungsten and Walker, 1978) and are now separated from South Bass Island by at least 4 km of water. Twelve thousand five hundred years ago though (after the last glaciation), the bottom of Lake Erie was virtually dry and was covered with forests (Forsyth, 1973). During this period, South Bass Island could have been populated by salamanders following the retreating glacier. The subsequent reflooding of the western basin (3,500 to 4,000 years ago) would have isolated South Bass Island with its *P. cinereus* population (Forsyth, 1973). The progression toward a monomorphic unstriped condition in this isolated population could then have occurred simply by genetic drift. Hence this lone striped *P. cinereus* may represent a relict gene in the population.

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The field work would not have been possible without the help of T. Bonace, R. Carter, M. Duffy, D. Michael, and P. Zock. Dr. G. Dalrymple constructively criticized the manuscript.

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## AN INTERGRADE *Lampropeltis triangulum* FROM WEST TEXAS

On 8 August, 1978, the authors secured a DOR specimen of *Lampropeltis triangulum* during the late morning on Highway 90, 0.8km west of Sanderson, Terrell Co., Texas. Upon examination the specimen appeared to be an intergrade between *L. t. celaenops* and *L. t. annulata*. Personal communication with Dr. Kenneth L. Williams further indicates that this is the first specimen of *L. triangulum* recorded from this area. It is deposited in the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology under the number UMMZ 156483.

The data on lepidosis and coloration of the specimen are given below:

Supralabials 7-7; infralabials 7-8; preoculars 2-?; postoculars 2-?; loreals ?; temporals 2-?. Dorsal scale rows 21-21-19; ventrals 184; sub-caudals 48; total length ca. 464mm; tail length 75mm; tail length/total length ratio 0.161.

Top of head mostly black; white mottling present on supralabials, supraoculars, prefrontals, internasals, rostral, nasals, loreals, preoculars, and temporals. Frontal and postoculars on the left are entirely black; infralabials white with small amounts of black concentrated in the sutures; chin white with sparse amounts of black flecking.

The first white ring extends from the posterior 1/3 of the parietals to 2 1/2 scales back; length of remaining white rings 2 scales mid-dorsally. White bands are all complete across the venter, although the black bands will sometimes encroach to form an imperfect alternating pattern. The number of white annuli on body 18; the number on the tail 5 with one more forming on the side. There is a very light amount of black flecking on all white rings with the least amount occurring on the two rings at each extremity.

Length of the first black ring 3 1/2 scales; middorsal length of remaining black rings 2-3 scales (mostly 2); lateral length of remaining black rings 1/2-1 scale (mostly 1). Number of black rings on body 35 (plus 1 directly above the vent); number of black rings on tail 7. The black rings never cross the red pigment mid-dorsally, although a light suffusion of black pigment occurs on some red annuli.

Length of first red ring 8-10 scales; length of remaining red rings 3-5 1/2 scales mid-dorsally. Number of red rings on body 18; number on tail 2.

The black annuli completely encircle the venter; in addition, the middle 3/5 of each ventral saddle is black. All of these black ventral saddles contain small white blotches or flecks of white. The tail has 3 large solid black annuli instead of saddles. The first 3 saddles on the anterior section of the specimen consist of a double row of black dots connecting the black annuli. This pattern gradually fills in to form the saddle pattern present along the remainder of the specimen.

Several of the features of this specimen suggest intergradation between *L. t. celaenops* and *L. t. annulata* (see Williams, 1978).

These are:

- 1) The intermediate amount of black pigment on the head and chin.
- 2) The intermediate width of the black ventral saddles.
- 3) The progressive increase in the black ventral pigment from the throat to the first black ventral saddle.
- 4) The presence of white markings in the black ventral saddles.

In addition to these definitive intergradational characteristics, the scale counts and lengths of the body annuli fall within the range of variation of both subspecies.

We would like to thank Dr. Kenneth L. Williams for examining the data on this specimen and for his helpful comments.

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