NEW KANSAS MAXIMUM SIZES FOR VIRGINIA VALERIAE AND CARPHOPHIS VERMIS

During March 2007, snakes of two species were collected that exceeded the maximum total length for Kansas specimens reported in Collins and Collins (1993).

Snakes were collected on the Jefferson County tract described by Pisani (2005). The snakes were marked and released at sites of capture as part of ongoing studies of Virginia and sympatric species. Photographs of the snakes positioned on a meter ruler were taken for reference. The Carphophis remained resident beneath the same shelter for several weeks, and was photo referenced when it became apparent she was a new record.

On 9 March 2007, a female Carphophis vermis was collected from beneath a plywood cover board in woodland edge habitat that exceeded by 8mm the maximum total length for Kansas specimens cited in Collins 1993. Data for the Carphophis are:

- SVL 332 mm
- Tail 42 mm
- Mass 12.5 grams
- Coloration typical of the species
- Collected by George Pisani
- Photographed 19 March 2007

On 29 March 2007 (ca 70m NE of the Carphophis site), a large female Virginia valeriae elegans was collected from beneath a plywood cover board in tall CRP grass; she exceeded by 68mm the published Kansas total length record. Data for the specimen are:

- SVL 320 mm
- Tail 53 mm
- Mass 21 grams
- Coloration typical of the species
- Collected by George Pisani and William Busby
- Photographed 29 March 2007

Additionally, on 14 March 2007 I captured a different large female Virginia v. elegans ca 80m N of the Carphophis site, also beneath a plywood cover board at the extreme eastern edge of lightly-wooded habitat. At that time, it was noted that this animal exceeded by 53mm the published Kansas record, since surpassed further by the 29 March specimen. This animal has remained resident beneath the same cover board through 29 March 2007. Data for that Virginia are:

- SVL 315 mm
- Tail 43 mm
- Mass 12.5 grams
- Scutellation/coloration typical of the species
- Collected by George Pisani

Voucher photographs of the record specimens have been deposited in the Fort Hays State University/Sternberg Museum Collection (Virginia: MHP 13478 and Carphophis: MHP 13479).

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LITERATURE CITED


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Figure 1. An adult Virginia valeriae (GRP 620) from Jefferson County, Kansas. Photograph by George R. Pisani.

FIRST RECORD OF THE BULLFROG FROM OSBORNE COUNTY, KANSAS


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