Field Notes

Herpetology trip to Francis Marion NF, SC

30 September - 3 October 2010

**30 September 2010**

Departure from Boone 5:45 PM.

**1 October 2010**

Arrival at campsite ca. 12:30 AM

**Site 1**

SC: Berkeley Co.: Francis Marion National Forest (FMNF): Honey Hill Campground

 33o 10’ 29.30” N ; 79o 33’ 46.89” W ; 25 ‘ elevation (Google Earth)

*Rana utricularia* – southern leopard frog – very active chorus with several amplectant pairs

*Rana catesbeiana* – bullfrog – several juveniles seen
 *Rana clamitans* *clamitans* – bronze frog - several calls heard

*Nerodia fasciata* – banded watersnake – 1 seen in frog chorus

*Anolis carolinensis* – green anole – 1 seen in tree above picnic table

SC: Charleston Co.: FMNF – SC 45 ca. 2 mi W McClellanville

 *Agkistrodon contortrix* *contortrix* – southern copperhead – 1 DOR

SC: Charleston Co.: FMNF, SC 45 0.9 mi W of Old Germantown Road

 *Terrapene carolina* *carolina* – eastern box turtle - adult female at edge of road at 10:00 AM –
 scars from burn and raccoon

**Site 2**

SC: Charleston Co.: Santee Coastal Reserve off E. Santee Road E of US 17 – area near E end of main entrance road – edge of cypress swamps for about 1.5 hours – Swamp full and lots of weater out in woods 33o 09’ 11” N ; 79o 22’ 05” W ; 8 ‘ elevation (Google Earth)

 *Acris gryllus* – southern cricket frog – many seen and several examined near swamp

 *Hyla squirella* – squirrel tree frog - 1 juvenile in green phase found

 *Bufo terrestris* – southern toad - two seen beside swamp along trail

 *Rana catesbeaina* – several juveniles found at edge of swamp

 *Rana utricularia* – quite a few seen escaping into the forest and pools

 *Siren intermedia* *intermedia* – eastern lesser siren – 3-4 seen in litter at edge of swamp

 *Plethodon variolatus* – South Carolina slimy salamander – several of both color morphs (all black
 and speckled with yellowish white) found under logs near swamps

 *Stereocheilus marginatus* – many lined salamander – 2 found in litter at edge of swamp

 *Anolis carolinensis* – only a couple seen

 *Scincella lateralis* – ground skink - several juveniles collected and observed
 *Agkistrodon contortrix contortrix* – 1 individual found near a stump retreat

 *Agkistrodon piscivorus piscivorus* – eastern cottonmouth - 2-3 young of this year, 3-4 young of
 last year, 2 older individuals and 2 of indeterminate age seen by students

 *Diadophis punctatus punctatus* – southern ring-neck snake - 1 juvenile found under a log

 *Nerodia fasciata fasciata* – banded water snake - 1 newborn found near swamp

 *Thamnophis sauritus sauritus* – eastern ribbon snake - 1 juvenile found in flooded woods

 *Trachemys scripta* *scripta* - yellow-bellied slider – 1 adult male found at edge of swamp

 *Sternotherus odoratus* – common musk turtle - 2 shells (1 very fresh and fleshy) found at edge of
 swamp

**1 October 2010 (continued)**

**Site 2 (continued)**

SNAILS:

 *Euglandina rosea* – rosy wolf snail – one juvenile on vegetation

**Site 3**

SC: Georgetown Co.: Santee Delta WMA at US 17 and N. Santee River: GE 12’ elev.;
 33° 12.30' N; 79° 23.23' W

 *Alligator mississippiensis* – 2 seen on levee

 *Trachemys scripta scripta* – 1 hatchling found on levee

SNAILS:

 *Euglandina rosea*

 *Triodopsis hopetonensis*

 *Triodopsis palustris?*

 *Ventridens intertextus*

 *Ventridens cerinoideus*

 *Zonitoides arboreus*

**Site 4**

SC: Berkeley Co.: FMNF – McConnell Landing area – swamp edge and adjacent bluff – 2:00-4:30 PM

 33o 14’ 40” N ; 79o 31’ 14” W ; 18-25 ‘ elevation (Google Earth)

*Scaphiopus holbrooki holbrooki* – eastern spadefoot frog - 1 juvenile found under a log

*Rana utricularia* – several seen at edge of swamp

*Ambystoma opacum* – marbled salamander – many under logs near swamp and at base of bluff –

 males with very white crossbands and females with grayish crossbands

*Eurycea cirrigera* – southern two-lined salamander – 1 adult near large swamp, 1 larva in muck
 at small stream

*Eurycea guttolineata* – three-lined salamander – many seen around swamp most were relatively
 small animals

 *Plethodon variolatus* – several seen under logs near swamp

 *Stereocheilus marginatus* – 1 adult in debris pile in small stream draining swamp

 *Amphiuma means* – two-toed amphiuma - 1 relatively small animals in debris pile in small stream
 draining swamp

 *Siren intermedia* – 1 fairly large animal in debris pile in small stream draining swamp

 *Anolis carolinensis*

*Eumeces laticeps* – broad-head skink - 1 large juvenile which appeared to be this species

 *Scincella lateralis*

 *Agkistrodon contortrix contortrix* – 1 adult about 36” active on surface near large log

 *Agkistrodon piscivorus piscivorus* – 1 adult (51” in total length) in grassy area

 *Nerodia erythrogaster erythrogaster* – red-bellied water snake - 1 fresh 41” individual in stomach
 of *A. piscivorus*

 FISH:

 *Esox*

 *Anguilla*

 *Gambusia*

 Centrarchid juvenile

**1 October 2010 (continued)**

**Site 4 (continued)**

SNAILS:

 *Euglandina rosea* – juvenile

*Mesodon thyroidus* –

*Neohelix solemi* –

*Xolotrema carolinensis -*

*Ventridens intertextus* –

*Mesomphix globosus* -

*Philomycus carolinianus* juvenile and adult on trees

*Euconulus fulvus* – 2 on dead snag with Philomycus

Numbers of *Philomycus* and *Xolotrema* in “wilted” fungi on dead tree

**Site 4 (night visit)**

Anolis carolinensis

Rana utricularia

Ambystoma opacum

**2 October 2010**

**Site 5**

SC: Berkeley Co.: FMNF Conifer Road (=FS 166) 0.8 miles “E” SC 41 – Open pine plantations with patches of varying age stands and wet areas with lots of water

 *Lampropeltis triangulum elapsoidea* – scarlet kingsnake - 3 individuals found under bark on dead
 pine trees

 *Rhadinaea flavilata* – 1 animal seen fairly well as it escaped down a hole at the base of a pine
 stump

 *Anolis carolinensis*

SC: Berkeley Co.: FMNF: Alligator Road near RR tracks

 *Kinosternon subrubrum* – eastern mud turtle - AOR 12:20 PM

**Site 6**

SC: Berkeley Co.: FMNF – Fox Gully Branch gauging station at Yellowjacket Road – set 3 turtle traps 33o 08’ 44” N ; 79o 47’ 21” W ; 19 ‘ elevation (Google Earth)

 *Rana clamitans* *clamitans* – 1 juvenile along flooded stream

 Leeches in water below weir – several individuals

**2 October 2010 (continued)**

**Site 7**

SC: Berkeley Co.: FMNF – Fox Gully Branch gauging station at SC 41 – set two minnow traps

 33o 08’ 30” N ; 79o 46’ 48” W ; 19 ‘ elevation (Google Earth)

 *Odocoileus virginianus* – white-tailed deer - partial skeleton without antlers

*Anolis carolinensis*

SNAILS

1 bag of stream drift collected

 *Triodopsis hopetonensis*

SC: Berkeley Co.: FMNF: South Hampton Road between Eckles Chapel and Irishtown Road

 *Crotalus horridus* – canebrake rattlesnake – recent DOR at 2:30 PM
 Google Earth 33° 6.676' N; 79° 46.520' W; 34’ elevation

**Site 8**

SC: Berkeley Co.: FMNF Irishtown Road at Turkey Creek: flooded woods with surrounding uplands. Creek level up significantly with signs that it was even higher recently. 1.5 hours

Google Earth 33° 7.585' N; 79° 46.612'W, elevation 16-33 feet

 *Carphophis amoenus* – worm snake – 1 under log

 *Diadophis punctatus punctatus* – 1 juvenile killed on road

 *Agkistrodon piscivorus piscivorus* – 1 seen

 *Scincella laterale* – 1 adult seen

 *Anolis carolinensis*

 *Terrapene carolina carolina* – 1 hatchling active on surface

 Ambystoma opacum

 *Plethodon variolatus* – several seen including 5 under bark around one dead tree

 *Bufo terrestris*

 *Rana catesbeaiana*

 *Rana utricularia*

 SNAILS:

 *Euglandina rosea*

 *Ventridens intertextus*

 *Zonitoides arboreus*

 *Patera perigrapta*

 Lots of floating debris

**2 October 2010 (continued)**

**Site 9**

SC: Berkeley Co.: Honey Hill: property of David Dix: 33° 11.449' N; 79° 34.629' W; 40 feet elevation

 *Thamnophis sirtalis sirtalis* – eastern garter snake – 1 dead

 *Agkistrodon piscivorus piscivorus* – 1 dead

**Site 10**

SC: Francis Marion National Forest (FMNF) Berkeley and Charleston county line along SC 45 at Wambaw Creek: walkabout for about 1 hour

33o 09’ 01” N ; 79o 32’ 39” W ; 14 ‘ elevation (Google Earth)

*Alligator mississippiensis* – American alligator - 2 juveniles seen hiding in vegetation

*Anolis carolinensis* – green anole - many seen on vegetation along the road

*Scincella lateralis* – 2 seen along road

*Diadophis punctatus punctatus* – 1 adult found on top of log near swamp edge

*Hyla squirella –* 1 found sitting on palmetto in water

*Hyla cinerea* – 1 male in tree about 10’ above swamp edge

SNAILS:

*Philomycus carolinianus*

Succineidae under palmetto frond

Succineidae under palmetto frond

*Zonitoides arboreus* under palmetto frond

**Site 11**

SC: Francis Marion National Forest (FMNF) Charleston County line along SC 45 at Mechaw Creek: walkabout for about 20 minutes

33° 8.267' N; 79° 31.293' W; 14‘ elevation (Google Earth)

**Site 1 again**

SC: Berkeley Co.: Francis Marion National Forest (FMNF): Honey Hill Campground – walked around about 45 minutes N of SC 45. 33o 10’ 29.30” N ; 79o 33’ 46.89” W ; 25 ‘ elevation (Google Earth)

*Rana utricularia* –

*Rana catesbeiana* –many around swamp edges, several rather large
 *Rana clamitans* *clamitans* – several seen

*Opheodrys aestivus* – rough green snake – 1 adult asleep about 12’ up un tree

Scaphiopus holbrookii – 1 small adult on surface near in campground

**3 October 2010**

Up early and depart campground by 10:00 AM

Road kills along the way:

*Elaphe obsoleta quadrivittata* – near Sawmills Road on SC 402

*Agkistrodon contortrix contortrix* – on Halfway Creek Road

Arriver Riverbanks Zoo for luinch 1:15 PM

Met Scott Pfaff, Curator of Herpetology at Riverbanks Zoo for tour

Left Zoo 4:40 PM

Returned to Boone 8:10 PM

Home 10:15 PM

**Species Encountered**

**Amphibia**

 **Anura** **– frogs and toads** species #

 Family Bufonidae - toads

*Bufo terrestris* – southern toad 1

 Family Hylidae – treefrogs and allies

 *Acris gryllus* – southern cricket frog 2

 *Hyla cinerea* – green treefrog 3

 *Hyla squirella* – squirrel treefrog 4

 Family Pelobatidae – spadefoot frogs

 *Scaphiopus holbrooki* – eastern spade-foot frog 5

 Ranidae – true frogs

 *Rana catesbeana* – bullfrog 6

 *Rana clamitans clamitans* – bronze frog 7

 *Rana utricularia* – southern leopard frog 8

 **Caudata – salamanders**

 Family Ambystomatidae – mole salamanders

 *Ambystoma opacum* – marbled salamanders 9

 Family Amphiumidae – amphiumas

 *Amphiuma means* – two-toed amphiuma 10

 Family Plethodontidae – lungless salamanders

 *Eurycea cirrigera* – southern two-lined salamander 11 *Eurycea guttolineata* – three-lined salamander 12

 *Plethodon variolatus* – South Carolina slimy salamander 13

 *Stereochilus marginatus* - many lined salamander 14

 Family Salamandridae – newt

 *Notophthalmus viridescens louisianensis* – central newt 15

 Family Sirenidae – sirens

 *Siren intermedia* – eastern lesser siren 16

**Reptilia**

 **Crocodilia – crocodilians**

 Family Alligatoridae – alligators and caimans

 *Alligator mississippiensis* – American alligator 17

 **Squamata – Suborder Sauria – lizards**

 Family Polychrotidae (or Iguanidae)

 *Anolis carolinensis* – green anole 18

 Family Scincidae – skinks

 *Eumeces laticeps* – broad-head skink (seen only) 19

 *Scincella lateralis* – ground skink 20

 **Squamata – Suborder Ophidia – snakes**

 Family Colubridae – harmless snakes

 *Carphophis amoenus* – eastern worm snake 21

 *Diadophis punctatus punctatus* – southern ring-neck snake 22

 *Elaphe obsoleta quadrivittata* – yellow rat snake 23 *Lampropeltis triangulum elapsoides* – scarlet kingsnake 24

 *Nerodia erythrogaster* – red-bellied water snake 25

 *Nerodia fasciata* – banded watersnake 26

 *Opheodrys aestivus* – keeled green snake 27

 Rhadinaea flavilata – pine woods snake 28

 *Thamnophis sauritus* sauritus – eastern ribbon snake 29 *Thamnophis sirtalis sirtalis* – eastern garter snake 30

 Family Viperidae – vipers

 *Agkistrodon contortrix contortrix* – southern copperhead 31

 *Agkistrodon piscivorus piscivorus* – eastern cottonmouth 31

 *Crotalus horridus* – canebrake rattlesnake\* 33

 **Testudines – turtles**

 Family Emydidae

 Terrapene Carolina Carolina – eastern box turtle 34

 Trachemys scripta scripta – yellow-bellied slider 35

Family Kinosternidae – mud and musk turtles

 Kinosternon subrubrum subrubrum – eastern mud turtle 36

 *Sternotherus odoratus* – stinkpot or common musk turtle 37