**Herpetology 2009**

**Field Notes for Western NC Field Trip**

**October 9, 2009**

Left Boone at 9:45 AM in two vans with 16 students, 1 instructional assistant, and 1 professor.

**Site 1**

NC: Swain Co.: Nantahala Gorge near Ferfebee Picnic Area (Nantahala National Forest) along E. Hellards Road at US 19: roar and railroad rights of way: 35° 18.136'N, 83° 39.279'W, ca. 1898’ elevation (Google Earth)

 **Herps**

 *Desmognathus monticola* – seal salamander – several of many along small stream – xlg individuals with little pattern and darkening venter

*Plethodon serratus* – southern red-back salamander – 2 under over in woods & along RR tracks

*Rana palustris* – pickerel frog – 1 juvenile from near stream – yellow hidden areas around legs and belly are characteristic –

 **Snails**

 *Mesodon normalis*

 *Mesodon thyroidus*

*Trisodopsis tridentata*

*Inflectarius* species

*Stenotrema* species

*Euchemotrema fasciata*

 *Mesomphix* (2 species)

 *Haplotrema concavum*

 *Glyphyalinia carolinensis*

 *Philomycus* species

**Site 2**

NC: Graham Co.: Robbinsville: Tallulah Creek at NC hwy 143: stream and bank in overcast weather for about 45 minutes: 35° 19.485'N; 83° 48.023'W; elevation 1988’ (Google Earth)

 **Herps**

 none

 **Snails**

 none

**October 9, 2009 (continued)**

**Site 3**

NC: Graham Co.: Nantahala National Forest (NNF): Rattler Ford Campground: area around campground before dinner and along creek between 11:00 and 11:50 PM: 35° 21.541'N; 83° 54.959'W; elevation 2100’ (Google Earth):

 **Herps**

 *Eurycea wilderae* – Blue Ridge two-lined salamander - several

 *Eurycea junaluska* – Junaluska salamander – 1 found near camp

 *Plethodon teyahalee* – southern Appalachian slimy salamander - 1 near camp

*Desmognathus quadramaculatus* – black belly salamander - several near creek

*Notophthalmus viridescens* – 2 efts found near camp

**Snails**

*Arion* species – laid eggs on way back to lab

*Mesodon normalis* – 1 shell

**Site 4**

NC: Graham Co.: Nantahala National Forest (NNF): near Rattler Ford Campground on Co Rd 1127: early evening and from 10:30 PM to 12:00 M

 **Herps**

 *Agkistroodon contortrix mokeson* – northern copperhead – escaped on road

 *Plethodon teyahalee* –– 1 DOR

 *Pseudotriton ruber schencki* –black-chinned red salamander - 4 AOR

*Eurycea wilderae* – Blue Ridge two-lined salamander - >8 live and >5 dead on road (DOR) after rain

 *Notophthalmus viridescens* – red spotted newt (eft stage) – 1 DOR

 **Snails**

 *Philomycus carolinianus* – AOR after rain

**Site 5**

NC: Graham Co.: Cherohala Skyway (st rd 143):

 **Herps**

 *Thamnophis sirtalis* – common garter snake – 1 AOR, 2 DOR

**October 9, 2009 (continued)**

**Site 6**

NC: Graham Co.: Nantahala National Forest (NNF): FS rd ca. 0.1 mi E Stratton Gap. 35° 20.280'N; 84° 1.809'W; near 4292 feet elevation (Google Earth): along FS road before and during thunderstorm

 **Herps**

*Desmognathus ocoee* – Ocoee salamander (southern mountain dusky) – several seen – round tail, venter mostly light with some darker spotting, coloration variable

 *Desmognathus quadramaculatus* – several small and very large seen

 *Eurycea wilderae* - adults and larvae seen in or near roadside ditch

 *Plethodon shermani* – red-legged salamander – in this part of its range this member of the P. jordani complex does not have red legs; but it does have a few light spots along the lower sides.

 **Snails**

 None

**October 10, 2009**

**Site 7**

NC: Graham Co.: NNF – Deep Creek Hunter site near 35° 24.732'N; 83° 54.898'W; 2079 feet elevation (Google Earth)

 **Herps**

 *Desmognathus monticola* – several found along road and in stream

*Desmognathus ocoee* – several color morphs found

*Desmognathus fuscus*? – one juvenile seems to be one of the “fuscoids” (*D. fuscus* or *D. santeetlah*)

*Eurycea wilderae* – several seen

*Notophthalmus viridescens* – 1 large eft found

*Diadophis punctatus edwardsi* – 1 juvenile found under rocks at road cut

 **Snails**

 *Inflectarius* species

 *Mesodon normalis*

 *Ventridens* species

 *Mesomphix* species

 *Philomycus* species

**October 10, 2009 (continued)**

**Site 9**

NC: Graham Co.: NNF – Big Fat Gap area: 35° 25.678'N; 84° 0.107'W; near 2174 feet elevation (Google Earth)

 **Herps**

 *Desmognathus aeneus* – Cherokee salamander – small, thin dusky with “fork” marking on head

*Desmognathus ocoee* – several, including some fairly brightly colored individuals

*Plethodon shermani* – these are again the population with a few light spots along the side and no red on the legs

 *Plethodon aureolus* – Tellico salamander – smaller slimy salamander with many golden flecks on the back

*Plethodon serratus* – two seen

 *Plethodon teyahalee* – several large and small seen

 *Diadophis punctatus* – six individuals found in rocky area along the road

 *Thamnophis sirtalis* – one adult and one juvenile in rocky area along road

 **Snails**

 *Philomycus* species

 *Ventridens* species

 *Haplotrema concavum*

 *Appalachina chilhowiensis*

 *Mesodon normalis*

 *Neohelix albalbris*

 *Mesomphix* species 1

 *Mesomphix* species 2

 *Discus patulus*

**Site 10**

NC: Graham Co.: Stecoah Gap on NC hwy 143 at Appalachian Trail: 7:30 – 8:05 PM: 35° 21.489'N; 83° 43.057'W; 3184 feet elevation (Google Earth)

 **Herps**

 *Plethodon cheoah* – Cheoah salamander – one of two red-legged species – restricted to this area in the Cheoah Mountains

*Plethodon serratus* – 1 found in the leaf liter

 *Plethodon teyahalee* – several found active on surface

 **Snails**

 *Philomycus* 2 species – crawling on tree trunks

 *Haplotrema concavum*

 *Mesomphix* species

 *Ventridens* species

 *Mesodon normalis*

Back to Boone 11:40 PM - Back to home 1:25 AM

Herps seen:

1. *Desmognathus aeneus* – Cherokee Salamander, seepage salamander
2. *Desmognathus fuscus* – northern dusky salamander
3. *Desmognathus monticola* – seal salamander
4. *Desmognathus ocoee* – Ooee salamander
5. *Desmognathus quadramaculatus* – Black-belly salamander
6. *Desmognathus santeetlah* – Santeetlah salamander
7. *Eurycea junaluska* – Junaluska salamander
8. *Eurycea wilderae* – Blue Ridge two-lined salamander
9. *Plethodon aureolus* – Tellico salamander
10. *Plethodon cheoah* – Cheoah salamander
11. *Plethodon serratus* – southern red-backed salamander
12. *Plethodon shermani* – red legged salamander
13. *Plethodon teyahalee* – southern Appalachian slimy salamander
14. *Pseudotriton ruber schencki* – black-chinned red salamander
15. *Notophthalmus viridescens* – red-spotted newt
16. *Rana palustris* – pickerel frog
17. *Diadophis punctatus* – ring-neck snake
18. *Thamnophis sirtalis* – common garter snake
19. *Agkistrodon contortrix* – copperhead snake