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## A Report on the Reptiles Collected by J. M. Shaffer From the Keokuk Area 1863-1895

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## A Report on the Reptiles Collected by J. M. Shaffer From the Keokuk Area 1863-1895

JOHN D. GOODMAN

On March 9, 1942, the Parsons College Biology Department undertook the identification of the J. M. Shaffer collection which had been on display at the Fairfield Public Library Museum for many years. The collection was found to contain many specimens without adequate collecting data. Each bottle had a number which corresponded with one kept in a ledger by Doctor Shaffer. Unfortunately through the years the ledger has been misplaced. All of the specimens in the collection fall within their established ranges with the exception of a single *Phrynosoma cornutum*. This specimen has only the date 1880 attached to the bottle. A population of this lizard in southern Iowa is extremely unlikely. As Keokuk is located in the extreme southeastern corner of the state it is impossible to determine whether all of the specimens were secured in Iowa, or if some were collected in either Missouri or in Illinois, just across the river.

The Mississippi River draws a rough dividing line between certain of our terrestrial faunal groups. We know that this is not due to the river acting as a barrier, but rather to the different character of the areas east and west of the river. This change is not abrupt, since eastern forest areas extend westward and grassland covers many areas east of the river. We may therefore expect a considerable overlapping of the typical eastern and western forms in this region.

Ruthven and Blanchard in their studies on the genera *Thamnophis* and *Lampropeltis* brought out this overlapping and subsequent intergradation in the Mississippi Valley region.

Acknowledgement is here expressed to Mr. J. Wilbur Dole and to Miss Lelia Wilson of the Fairfield Public Library, from whom permission was obtained to examine the collection. An examination of the collection resulted in the following forms being identified:

1. Common Hog-nosed Snake, *Heterodon contortrix contortrix* Linn. Four specimens.
2. Western Smooth Green Snake, *Ophedrys vernalis blanchardi* Grob. Six specimens; three dated 1870, 1871, and 1882.
3. Blue Racer, *Coluber constrictor flaviventris* Say. One specimen.
4. Pilot Black Snake, *Elaphe obsoleta obsoleta* Say. Two large specimens.
5. Speckled King Snake, *Lampropeltis getulus holbrooki* Stej. One specimen without collecting data.
6. Common Milk Snake, *Lampropeltis triangulum triangulum* Lacpede. Three specimens; each labeled 'Bull Snake' without collecting data.
7. Red Milk Snake, *Lampropeltis triangulum sypila* Cope. Ten specimens; one collected in 1891.
8. Graham's Water Snake *Natrix grahami* Baird & Girard. Two specimens.
9. Common Water Snake *Natrix sipedon sipedon* Linn. Nine specimens; one collected 1868 (the earliest date), two in 1891. All of these snakes were labeled 'Water Moccasin' with the Latin name *Ancistrodon piscivorus* accompanying them.
10. De Kay's Snake, *Storeria dekayi* Holbrook. Two specimens.

11. Red-bellied Snake, *Storeria occipitomaculata* Storer. One specimen.
12. Plains Garter Snake, *Thamnophis radix* Baird & Girard. One specimen.
13. Common Garter Snake, *Thamnophis sirtalis sirtalis* Linn. Eight specimens; two labeled 1882 and 1885.
14. Red-sided Garter Snake, *Thamnophis sirtalis parietalis* Say. Twenty-three were collected; four labeled 1868, 1869, 1869, 1878, 1893.
15. Western Ribbon Snake, *Thamnophis sauritus proximus* Say. One specimen.
16. Eastern Ribbon Snake, *Thamnophis sauritus sauritus* Linn. One specimen; unfortunately without collecting data.
17. Lined Snake, *Tropidoclonion lineatum* Hallowell. One specimen collected in 1883.
18. Northern Copperhead, *Agkistrodon mokasen cupreus* Raf. Six specimens; three very small, measuring about six inches, collected September 1, 2, and 13, 1879.
19. Eastern Massasauga, *Sistrurus catenatus catenatus* Raf. Fourteen individuals; five adults, with one bottle containing an adult and nine young. Collecting dates 1870, 1875, and 1879.
20. Timber Rattlesnake, *Crotalus horridus horridus* Linn. Nine specimens; six were collected in 1879, one in 1883 and two were without data.
21. Glass-snake Lizard, *Ophisaurus ventralis* (Linn.). Two specimens; one dated 1887.
22. Common Five-lined Skink, *Eumeces fasciatus* (Linn.). Three specimens dated 1876.
23. Texan Horned Lizard. *Phrynosoma cornutum*. (Harlan). One specimen dated 1880.

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