

**PSEUDACRIS HYPOCHONDRIACA** (San Lucan Chorus Frog). **REPRODUCTION.** Much of the information on reproduction in this species is available under an earlier name, *Hyla regilla* (Schaub and Larsen 1978. *Herpetologica* 34:409–416) and little is known of populations in Mexico. In Baja California Sur, *P. hypochondriaca* breeds during wetter months; in the Cape Region there are reports of calling males and amplexus from January through October (Grismer 2002. *Amphibians and Reptiles of Baja California: Including Its Pacific Islands and the Islands in the Sea of Cortez*. University of California Press, Berkeley. 399 pp.).

On 11 Dec 2006, 2120 h, we found an adult female (40.1 mm SVL, 8.9 g) *P. hypochondriaca* with evidence of eggs inside her body. At 0900 h the next day the frog was measured, weighed, and marked with VIE (Visible Implant Elastomer). At 1500 h she was released at the point of capture, a small, shallow (4 sq. m, 10 cm deep) temporary pond in Cañón de Santa Rita, Sierra de la Laguna, southern Baja California Sur, México (23°28.28'N, 109°48.5'W; elev. 267 m). At 1600 h we found the same female in amplexus with a male (33.4 mm SVL, 4.2 g) and two hours later the amplexus finished. The female deposited 6 egg masses (total of 82 eggs), which were attached to aquatic vegetation at 5 cm depth. After amplexus, the female lost 2.9 g (32.6%) of her mass. This information contributes to the knowledge of reproduction in *P. hypochondriaca* females in the southernmost part of their distribution.

We thank Abelino Cota for assistance with fieldwork.

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**RANA BOYLI** (Foothill Yellow-legged Frog). **PREDATION.** On 10 May 1996, an adult female Sacramento Pike Minnow (*Ptychocheilus grandis*; 451 mm TL, 950 g) was collected from the margin of the Eel River near Holmes, Humboldt Co. California, USA. Stomach analysis revealed an adult Foothill Yellow-legged Frog, *Rana boylei* (70 mm SUL), one complete *R. boylei* egg mass, and five Threespine Stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus*). The frog and egg mass (31.49 g, combined weight) were undigested suggesting recent ingestion (< 1 h). With few exceptions, previous literature does not describe amphibians in the diet of *P. grandis* (Brown 1990. *Southwest. Nat.* 35:249–260; Taft and Murphy 1950. *California Fish Game* 36:147–164).

In California, *R. boylei*, a state species of special concern, is rare or absent in habitats where introduced aquatic predators are present (Jennings and Hayes 1994. *Amphibian and Reptile Species of Special Concern in California*. California Dept. Fish and Game, Rancho Cordova, California. 255 pp.). *Rana boylei* has been extirpated from much of its historical range in areas where it was sympatric with *P. grandis*, primarily the Central Valley and central Coast Ranges. The majority of extant *R. boylei* populations are outside the present range of *P. grandis*, although they are sympatric in the Eel River.

In 1979, *P. grandis*, a California endemic, was illegally introduced into the Eel River drainage. By 1986 it had successfully

colonized ca. 200 km of river (Brown and Moyle 1997. *Environ. Biol. Fishes* 49[3]:271–291). During a diet analysis of this *P. grandis* population, amphibians were found in 42 of 345 individuals. Brown and Moyle (1997, *op. cit.*) concluded that in the Rice Fork of the Eel River, frogs and tadpoles are an important part of the diet. Although we do not believe *P. grandis* is a primary threat to *R. boylei*, it is of concern that an egg mass as well as an adult frog were taken. Monitoring of the interaction between these species would be valuable.

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**RANA CAPITO** (Gopher Frog). **REFUGE DURING FIRE.** Most animals have adaptive behaviors that help them escape fire, but little is known about how amphibians survive fires in fire-maintained ecosystems. During a radio-telemetry study of *Rana capito* in the Ocala National Forest, Marion County, Florida, USA, the U.S. Forest Service conducted a prescribed fire on 20 July 2006 as a normal management activity to maintain suitable habitat for *R. capito* and other species that occur in the longleaf pine, *Pinus palustris*, ecosystem. Two newly metamorphosed juveniles with attached transmitters were present in the burn area during this time. They were captured at drift fences surrounding ephemeral ponds and outfitted with external transmitters at ca. 1100 h on 19 July 2006. Immediately following transmitter attachment they were released near the capture site. We located the frogs immediately post-fire at ca. 2000 h on 20 July 2006. One frog moved 71 m from the drift fence into an abandoned burrow excavated by an adult Gopher Tortoise, *Gopherus polyphemus*. The second frog moved 43 m from the drift fence into an unburned patch of Wiregrass, *Aristida stricta*. Because we did not locate these frogs immediately before the fire, we do not know whether they moved to refuges in response to the fire or sometime during the previous day before the fire.

These observations indicate that *R. capito* is able to survive fires in underground refuges and in areas that do not burn when the fire passes. There was no evidence of mortality, as we might expect for a species that evolved in a fire-maintained ecosystem. Richter et al. (*J. Herpetol.* 35:316–321) reported no mortality of three adult Dusky Gopher Frog, *R. sevosa*, during a prescribed fire, also suggesting that *R. capito* are not highly vulnerable to fire. These observations highlight the importance of heterogeneous fire, which allows animals to take shelter in unburned areas when no other refugia are available.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission provided funding for the radio-telemetry study on *R. capito*.

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