

HERPETOLOGY NOTES

ANURA — FROGS

HYLA VERSICOLOR (Gray Treefrog). **LONGEVITY.** *Hyla versicolor*, along with its diploid congener *H. chrysoscelis*, are common arboreal anurans occurring throughout the eastern United States and Canada (Cline 2005 *In M. Lannoo [ed.], Amphibian Declines: The Conservation Status of United States Species*, pp. 458–461. University of California Press, California). The two species can be differentiated based on the pulse rate of the male vocalization (Johnson 1959. *Copeia* 1959:327–335). Although rigorous, range-wide demographic studies have not been conducted, Wright (1932. *Life Histories of the Frogs of the Okefenokee Swamp, Georgia*. Macmillan Press, New York, New York. 497 pp.) suggested that Gray Treefrogs from the Okefenokee Swamp reached sexual maturity at two years old. On the night of 16 July 2006, one of us (PC) collected six amplexant pairs of *H. versicolor* from a roadside ditch off Texas State Highway 36, about one mile north of Damon, Brazoria County, Texas, USA, for a native amphibian exhibit at the Houston Zoo (Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Zoological Permit # ZPB-0991-436). He took all pairs to his personal residence to allow oviposition to occur before entering them into the zoo's quarantine procedures. Five of the six pairs oviposited over the next three days and were taken to the zoo on 20 July 2006. The remaining pair did not oviposit for a week and by this time quarantine was closed. Therefore, PC retained the treefrogs in his personal collection. In January 2013, PC transferred the pair to CJ's personal residence. They remained there until the male died on 30 January 2016 and the female died on 1 January 2017. For the majority of the time, the pair resided in a heavily planted, 209-liter (55-gallon) aquarium. They were fed domestic crickets exclusively, on average, twice per week. Crickets were gut loaded with a calcium supplement (Hi Calcium Gut Loading Diet, Mazuri, Richmond, Indiana) and dusted periodically with calcium and vitamin powders (Herptivite and Calcium with Vitamin D3, Rep-Cal Research Labs, Los Gatos, California). Based on Wright's estimate of maturity at two years old, and on the conservative assumption that both individuals were first-time breeders,



FIG. 1. Old adult female *Hyla versicolor* with corneal lipidosis clearly visible in right eye.

the male was presumably 11.5 years old at the time of death and the female was 12.5. Previous captive longevity records for this species in the literature are 7 years (Nigrelli 1954. *Trans. New York Acad. Sci.* 16[6]:296–299) and 7 years, 9 months, and 20 days (Snider and Bowler 1992. *Longevity of Reptiles and Amphibians in North American Collections*. Second edition. SSAR Herpetological Circular, Number 21. 40 pp.). Therefore, this male and female exceeded the previous longevity records in captivity by 4 and 5 years, respectively. The female developed white opacities on both eyes, consistent with corneal lipidosis (Eric Baitchman, DVM, pers. comm.) in the last few years of life, which eventually resulted in complete blindness (Fig. 1).

PAUL CRUMP, Biology Department, University of New Brunswick—Saint John, 100 Tucker Park Road, Saint John, New Brunswick, E2L 4L5 Canada; **RACHEL ROMMEL-CRUMP**, 402 Craddock Avenue, San Marcos, Texas 78666, USA; **CASSIDY JOHNSON**, Houston Community College Southeast, 6815 Rustic Street, Houston, Texas 77087, USA; **SHIVAS AMIN**, Biology Department, University of St. Thomas, 3800 Montrose, Houston, Texas 77006, USA.

SQUAMATA — LIZARDS

UROMASTYX NIGRIVENTRIS (Moroccan Spiny-tailed Lizard). **LONGEVITY.** In 1967 one of us (JLB) received two adult individual *U. nigriventris* that were collected in Algeria, and in 1970 a third one collected near Fès, Fès-Meknès Region, Morocco. Two died after a couple of years but the last one (MVHN-310316VS01, Museu Valencià d'Història Natural, Valencia) was kept in Brittany, France, till the early 1980s, then in Valencia, Spain, where it died in Nov. 2015, thus after at least 45 years in captivity. Until the mid-1990s its terrarium was placed inside except for the three summer months when it was on a terrace where it could get direct sun light for about three hours per day. Then it was permanently kept inside with artificial lighting (including UV) and heating. It was mostly fed with salad, cabbage and apple, plus clover and dandelion in Brittany and unidentified yellow flowers in Valencia. The fact that it already had an adult size when received in 1967 or 1970 indicates that it died at an age of at least 46 years. It had reached a snout-vent length of 225 mm and a tail length of 123 mm. The maximum longevity so far known for *Uromastyx* in captivity was 22 years (for *U. nigriventris*; Wilms 2001. *Dornschwanzagamen - Lebensweise, Pflege, Zucht. Herpeton*, Offenbach. 143 pp.) and about 33 years for a free ranging *Uromastyx aegyptia* (Bringsøe 1998. *Faun. Abh. Mus. Tierkunde Dresden* 21 Suppl. 6:19–21).

OLIVIER S. G. PAUWELS, Département des Vertébrés Récents, Institut Royal des Sciences naturelles de Belgique, Rue Vautier 29, B-1000 Brussels, Belgium (e-mail: osgpauwels@yahoo.fr); **JOSÉ LUIS BONNIN**, Avenida Doctor Waksman 19 puerta 8, 46006 Valencia, Spain (e-mail: jibonnin.solana@gmail.com); **VICENTE SANCHO**, Asociación Herpetológica Española, Ronda 9 d'Octubre, 18 b, 46510 Quartell, Valencia, Spain (e-mail: vicente.sancho@gmail.com); **THOMAS WILMS**, Allwetterzoo Münster, Sentruper Straße 315, D-48161 Münster, Germany (e-mail: wilms@allwetterzoo.de).