

Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

McCoy, C. J., and Richard C. Vogt 1988. *Graptemys oculifera*.

***Graptemys oculifera* (Baur)
Ringed Sawback**

Malacoclemmys oculifera Baur, 1890:262. Type-locality, "Mandeville, La.," restricted to the Pearl River, 26 miles east of Mandeville, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana, by Cagle (1953:138). Holotype, U. S. Natl. Mus. 15511, a sub-adult female, date and collector unknown, received from Gustave Kohn (examined by authors).

Graptemys oculifera: Baur, 1893:675. First use of combination.

Graptemys pseudogeographica oculifera: Stejneger and Barbour, 1917:118. See Comment.

Graptemys o. oculifera: Mertens and Wermuth, 1955:355. See Comment.

Malaclemys oculifera: McDowell, 1964:274. See Comment.

Malaclemys oculifer: Cochran and Goin, 1970:149. *Lapsus*.

• **Content.** No subspecies are recognized.

• **Definition.** *Graptemys oculifera* is a small *Graptemys* of the "narrow headed" group (*sensu* Cagle, 1954). Sexual size dimorphism is extreme: males grow to 11 cm carapace length, and females reach 22 cm carapace length. The carapace is oval to almost round (in adult females) in dorsal view, and vertebral scutes 1-4 bear laterally compressed, black, spine-like projections near their posterior margins. These vertebral spines are particularly prominent in juveniles and adult males. The posterior edge of the carapace (marginal scutes 9-12) is serrate. Ground color of the carapace is olive green, and each pleural scute bears a single, usually complete, orange to yellow ring. Each marginal scute also has an incomplete yellowish circular mark, as do vertebral scutes 1, 4 and 5. The plastron is yellow to orange, with a variably distinct dark pattern mostly along the seams. Ground color of head, neck, legs, and tail is sooty black, with lemon-yellow stripes. Adult males have longer tails, elongate fore-claws, and prominent vertebral spines. Adult females have broader and lower shells.

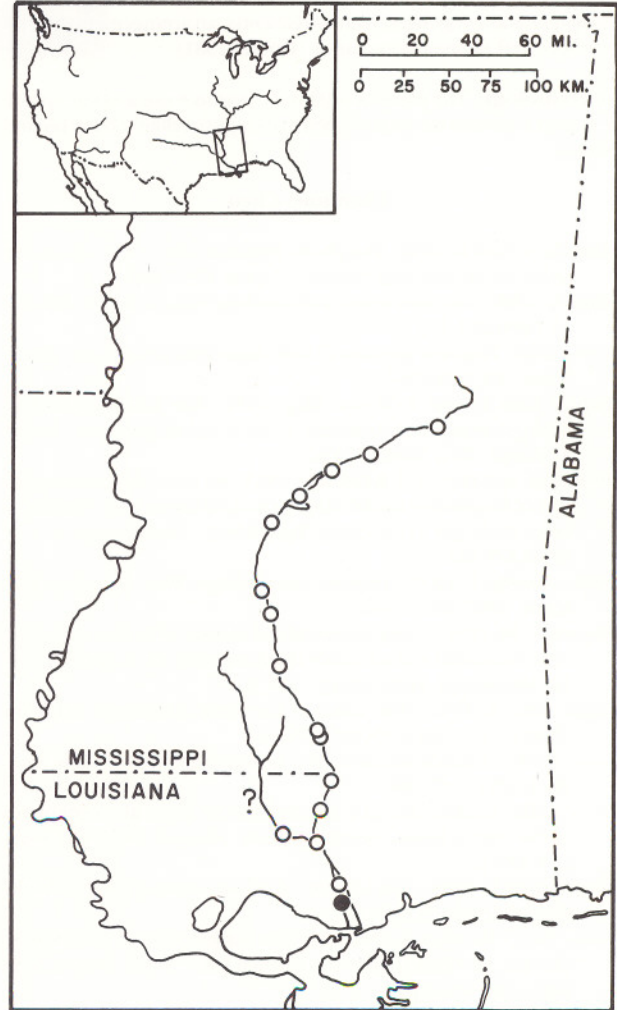
• **Descriptions.** The original description (Baur, 1890) is adequate to characterize the species. Cagle (1953) gave a thorough redescription. Other descriptions are in Carr (1952), and Ernst and Barbour (1972). Killebrew (1977) described the karyotype ($2n = 50$).

• **Illustrations.** Line drawings of skull, shell characters, and color patterns are in Cagle (1953, 1968). Black and white photographs of skulls are in Ernst and Barbour (1972), and of living animals in Wahlquist (1970) and Ernst and Barbour (1972). Color illustrations are in Ernst and Barbour (1972), Conant (1975), Behler and King (1979), and Pritchard (1979a). Killebrew (1977) illustrated the chromosomes.

• **Distribution.** *Graptemys oculifera* occurs from the vicinity of Philadelphia, Neshoba County, Mississippi, downstream in the Pearl (including Ross Barnett Reservoir) and West Pearl rivers to near the town of Pearl River, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana, and in the lower Bogue Chitto River, St. Tammany and Washington parishes, Louisiana. The species inhabits only the deep, fast-flowing main channels of these rivers, where abundant unshaded basking logs are available. It does not occur in tributary streams, or in the tidally-influenced lowermost section of the West Pearl River (McCoy and Vogt, 1980).

• **Fossil Record.** None.

• **Pertinent Literature.** The most complete general account is in Ernst and Barbour (1972). Distribution and zoogeography were discussed by Cagle (1954), Tinkle (1958), and Cliburn (1971). Relationships were considered by Hay (1892), Cagle (1954), Folkerts and Mount (1969), McKown (1972), Wood (1977), Killebrew (1979),



Map. Circles indicate locality records, and the solid circle marks the approximate location of the restricted type-locality. The question mark indicates uncertain range limits upstream in the Bogue Chitto River.

Pritchard (1979b), Dobie (1981), and Bertl and Killebrew (1983). Ewert (1979) reported on aspects of embryology, and Anderson (1958) described the behavior of emerging hatchlings. Parsons (1960, 1968) reported on the nasal structure. Brown (1977) and Frair (1977) discussed aspects of the hematology of the species, and Tinkle (1962) and Zangerl (1969) analyzed variation in seam alignments and carapace shields, respectively. Chaney and Smith (1950) and Vogt (1980) described collecting techniques. The species was mentioned by Beyer (1900), Pope (1949), Cliburn (1965), and Cagle (1968). McCoy and Vogt (1980) reported on distribution and population status throughout the range.

• **Comment.** *Graptemys oculifera* was a "lost" species from the time of its original description until it was rediscovered and red-described by Cagle (1953). The species was overlooked for 60 years partly as a result of the erroneous locality data "Mandeville, Louisiana and Pensacola, Florida" that accompanied the type-specimens (Baur, 1890). Stejneger and Barbour (1917, 1923, 1933) regarded *G. oculifera* as a subspecies of *G. pseudogeographica* (*sensu lato*), and attributed to it the vague range "Southern Louisiana." In succeeding editions of the checklist (Stejneger and Barbour, 1939, 1943) *Graptemys oculifera* was given full species rank, although there remained doubt about its identity and distribution ("Southern Louisiana, west into Texas"). Carr (1949) considered Baur's *oculifera* a "variant which may approximate the phenotype of *G. p.*

(*pseudogeographica*) *versa*." Mertens and Wermuth (1955) placed *G. flavimaculata* and *G. nigrinoda* as subspecies of *G. oculifera*, without supporting data. McDowell (1964) regarded all species of *Graptemys* as congeneric with *Malaclemys*, an arrangement that has not received general acceptance (Dobie, 1981).

• **Etymology.** The name *oculifera* (L., *oculus* = eye and Gr., *-phero* = to bear) refers to the ring-shaped markings (ocellae) on the pleural scutes.

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