collected, they were depositing eggs in great abundance, as was indicated by numerous freshly-deposited egg masses. I divided the snails into two equal groups of 24 each. Life-conditions were identical, except that the controls were kept at room temperature, while the experimental lot was transferred to a cold room kept at a constant temperature of 5.5° C. Within eight hours the temperature of the water in the aquarium of the experimental lot dropped from 28°C. to 5.5°C., while that of the control varied between 16° and 29°C. Records were kept of the number of egg masses deposited by each of the two groups of snails for a period of one week.

The snails of my control lot produced during the seven-day period a total of 16 egg masses, while the experimental group produced but two. These two were both deposited within 48 hours after the experimental lot had been put in the refrigeration room. After seven days, the aquarium from the cold room was brought into the laboratory, where the temperature of the water rose to 29°C. within a period of eight hours. All egg masses deposited during the first seven days were removed from the two aquaria. A record was then kept of the number of egg masses deposited by controls and experimentals during the following 7 days, with both groups subjected to the same temperature-range of from 16°-30°C.

During this 7-day period, those snails previously subjected to a low temperature (5.5°C.) deposited 22 egg masses, while the control group deposited but 13. The experiment was continued for another week, to determine over how long a period this acceleration in egg deposition by the experimental group would continue. During the second week of the 14-day period the controls deposited 9 egg masses and the experimental group deposited 11. This gives a total of 38 egg-masses for the control lot and 35 egg-masses for the experimental lot, which shows no significant difference. The use of temperature increased egg-production for one week, producing purely a temporary effect on the reproductive processes of the snails.

In brief summary: (*1*) Transfer of *L. palustris* from room temperatures (16°—129°C.) to low temperature (5.5°C.) stopped egg laying within a period of 2 days. (*2*) Egg deposition of *L. palustris* was accelerated when the snails were transferred from a low temperature (5.5°C.) to room temperatures (16°-30°C.) (*3*) The change in temperature from low (5.5°C.) to room temperatures (16°-30°C.) produced only a temporary effect upon the reproductive processes as judged by the number of egg-masses deposited.——ELMER P. CHEATUM, Professor of Biology, Southern Methodist University.

THE COAL SKINK, EUMECES ANTHRACINUS BAIRD, IN TEXAS——The presence of this skink in Texas has never been noted, although specimens have been taken from adjacent Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana (Smith, *Handbook of Lizards*, 1946). On September 8, 1950, we collected two specimens 4 mi. e. of Lufkin, Angelina County, Texas (approximately 60 mi. due w. of the Texas-Louisiana border). These, apparently, are the first Texas records. The skinks were taken from a piney woods habitat during the afternoon, one among leaves at the edge of a woodland, and the other hiding in a rotten stump on the edge of a small lake. Both specimens were taken within an hour of collecting time, which may indicate it to be a rather common lizard in the area.

Color and pattern are very much alike in both specimens, and in general agreement with Smith's description (*supra*, p. 372). They are extremely dark, almost black; the dorsolateral light line is indistinct, and the median dorsal light line very indistinct. The white line from ear to groin is very distinct, however. There are large white spots (in formalin) on the three most posterior supralabials. The ventrum is greyish-blue and the posterior half of the tail dark blue. Scalation and measurements are as follows:

TABLE I. SCALATION OF EUMECES ANTHRACINUS

No.	Sex	Scale rows at midbody	Dorsals	Ventrals	Supralabials	Infralabials	Postmental	Postnasal	Total	Length[1] S-V
SMU 138	m	23	48	55	7-7	7-8	1	1-1	76	38
SMU 139	f	22	47	50	7-7	7-6	1	none	66[2]	50

The median subcaudal scales are wider than long. Both specimens show the prefrontals in close contact with each other for a short distance and not separated by the contact of the frontal and the frontonasal. Dowling (*Copeia*, No. 3, 1950, p. 235) found such separation in specimens from Tuscaloosa County, Ala.

The dark coloration, indistinct pattern, and presence of a faint median dorsal light line agree with Smith's comments on his "western" population of *Eumeces anthracinus*, for which he proposes to retain the name *E. a. pluvialis Cope* (Smith, *Handbook*, 1946. pp. 374-5)—However, until further study is made of these groups, we will follow the nomenclature of Stejneger and Barbour (*Checklist of North American Amphibians and Reptiles*, Ed. 5, 1943).

Both specimens have been deposited in the Southern Methodist University collection (nos. SMU 138-9).——DONALD TINKLE & LAWRENCE CURTIS, Students, Southern Methodist University, Dallas.

RHUS AROMATICA Ait. var. **flabelliformis** Shinners, var. nov.——A specie differt foliis maturis minoribus glabris, foliolis terminalibus cuneato-obovatis obtusis etiam subtruncatis 1.5-2.5 cm. longis 0.8-2 cm. latis (ramulorum serotinorum sive opacorum etiam 3.3 cm. longis 2.5 cm. latis) obtuse lobatis dentatisve. Mature leaves glabrous, smaller than in the species, firm or slightly coriaceous; terminal leaflet cuneate-obovate, obtuse or with wide, almost truncate tip, 1.5-2.5 cm. long (including petiolular base), 0.8-2 cm. wide (as much as 3.3 cm. long and 2.5 cm. wide on late leafy shoots or on shaded plants). TYPE: Frequent in woods along ravine, Bluebird Avenue, Oakhurst, Fort Worth, Tarrant Co., Texas, *V. L. Cory 54413*, May 9, 1948, in fruit (in Herb. Southern Methodist University). A common shrub, chiefly of calcareous outcrops, but also in the sandy Cross Timbers, from the Blackland Prairies westward. The following collections from central Texas are typical.

COOKE CO.: 7.5 miles north of Gainesville, *Lloyd H. Shinners 12450*. DALLAS CO.: Urbandale, *C. L. & Amelia A. Lundell 8411*. Off Hillcrest Road 7 miles north of S.M.U. Campus, *Lundell & Lundell 10144*. DENTON CO.: 15.5 miles west of Denton, *Shinners 12308*. ERATH CO.: ½ mile east of Bluff Dale, *Eula Whitehouse 15426*. Five miles northeast of Stephenville, *Shinners 11065*. FANNIN CO.: 5.6 miles west-southwest of Honey Grove, *Shinners 12289*. HOOD CO.: 6¾ miles south of Granbury, *Cory 53754*. JACK CO.: 10 miles southeast of Jacksboro, *Shinners 12361*. JOHNSON CO.: 13½ miles southwest of Cleburne, *Shinners 11271*. MCLENNAN CO.: Waco, *Cory 55794*. SOMERVELL CO.: 3 miles south of Glen Rose, *Shinners 11289*. TARRANT CO.: without specific locality, *Albert Ruth 357*, June 2, 1929. South of Crowley, *Whitehouse 16115*. TRAVIS CO.: Austin, *Whitehouse*, May 13, 1940. WISE CO.: 1 mile west of Bridgeport, *Whitehouse 15263*. About 2½ miles west of Rhome, *Whitehouse 15091*.

This has long been incorrectly treated as *R. trilobata* Nutt., a species from the central Rocky Mountains (e.g., by Barkley in Lundell, Fl. Texas 3: 102, 1943), but it has the characteristic hairy fruits of *R. aromatica* of the eastern and central United States (cf. Fernald, Rhodora 43: 599-603, 1941). It certainly is not to be separated specifically from *R. aromatica* var. *serotina* (Greene) Rehder, of sandy woods in eastern Texas, westward along the Red River to Grayson County. Similarly, the densely pubescent-leaved plant of the Panhandle and Trans-Pecos is to be treated with it, as *R. aromatica* var. **pilosissima**

[1] in millimeters
[2] tail incomplete