

Herpetological Review
Natural History Notes
Author Guidelines and Instructions
updated March 2026

SCIENTIFIC NAME (Standard Name). **TITLE.** This template should be used by authors preparing Natural History Notes (NHNs) for publication in *Herpetological Review*. Submitted notes will be reviewed and edited by a corresponding section editor prior to acceptance. Additional editing may occur by the editor prior to inclusion in an issue for publication. Preferred notes should: 1) focus on observations in the field with little human intrusion; 2) should report novel information that has not already been reported in the herpetological literature; 3) represent more than isolated documentation of developmental aberrations; and 4) possess a natural history perspective. With some exceptions, individual notes should concern only one species. Authors are requested to choose a keyword or short phrase for a title that best describes the nature of their note (e.g., Diet [when the focal species is consuming something], Predation [when the focal species is being consumed], Reproduction, Morphology, Habitat Use, Behavior, etc.). The author should consult recently published NHNs to standardize key words used for other notes about a similar topic. The section's intent is to convey information rather than demonstrate prose. A common problem is inclusion of extraneous information. Use of figures is encouraged but they should replace words rather than embellish them and should help interpret the observation being reported, rather than just being a picture of the focal species. Tables should be included sparingly. If you include a figure/table, it must be referenced within the text (Fig. 1; Table 1) and a brief caption must be included at the bottom of the note. A video illustrating a behavior or action stemming from the observation may be archived at the *Herpetological Review* repository (available at: <https://hdl.handle.net/2152/85085>). Instead of linking to a URL (e.g., YouTube, Vimeo), please communicate with the appropriate Section Editor, and upon acceptance of the note, please also submit a copy of the video file (.mp4 file). This will be uploaded during production of the note by *HR* staff and a DOI will be inserted into the note.

Identify species by scientific name first, followed by the standard name in parentheses; *Crotalus atrox* (Western Diamond-backed Rattlesnake). Thereafter, use abbreviated scientific name (*C. atrox*) only in the note. For species in North America, north of Mexico, standard names should follow: Nicholson (ed.) 2025. Scientific and Standard English Names of Amphibians and Reptiles of North America North of Mexico, with Comments Regarding Confidence in Our Understanding. Ninth Edition. Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles. 87 pp.; for species from Mexico, standard names should follow: Liner and Casas-Andreu 2008. Standard Spanish, English and Scientific Names of the Amphibians and Reptiles of Mexico. *Herpetol. Circ.* 28:1–162. In attempt to offer clarity and improved communication of information, we request authors follow the *standard names* in these aforementioned guides but leave the choice of *scientific names* to the individual authors. If no standard name exists, please leave that section blank.

Incorrect formatting will result in your note being returned for revision and/or additional delays. Use 1.5-line spacing and one space after periods. Correct formatting for dates and time is 1 July 2025 and 0235 h. Do not use leading zeros when providing dates (e.g., “5 June” not “05 June”). Coordinates should be in decimal degrees (≤ 5 decimal places) and include the map datum used (e.g., 14.7976°S, 39.2334°W; WGS 84). Note the map datum is separated from the GPS by a semicolon and that there is a space in “WGS 84”. Use “S”, and “W” in the GPS coordinates and not negative values. Elevation data is not required, but should be in m (not ft) and follow the map datum in parenthesis. Snout–vent length should be abbreviated but not total length or tail length (45.0 cm SVL, 13.9 cm tail length, 50

g). If a measurement is an approximation, please use “ca.” (e.g., ca. 45.0 cm SVL). For temperatures, correct spacing is “24°C”. Provide measurements in metric units (e.g., grams [g], milliliters [mL]) and abbreviate time units as follows: second (s), minute (min), hour (h), days (d), week (wk), month (mo), and year (yr). Named products should include (Manufacturer, Location of Incorporation [City, State, Country]).

In-text citations should appear sparingly for journal articles (Fitch 1978. *Trans. Kansas Acad. Sci.* 81:354–362), books (Savage 2002. *The Amphibians and Reptiles of Costa Rica*. University of Chicago Press, Chicago, Illinois. 934 pp.), book chapters (Snow et al. 2007. *In* Henderson and Powell [eds.], *Biology of the Boas and Pythons*, pp. 416–438. Eagle Mountain Publishing, Eagle Mountain, Utah), and unpublished theses/dissertations (Doody 2002. M.S. Thesis, Southeastern Louisiana University, Hammond, Louisiana. 134 pp.). Journal titles are abbreviated and should follow ISO4 abbreviations. Usually 1–2 citations are sufficient, especially for general information on diet, habitat, range, etc. Follow chronological order within citation strings. Web resources are discouraged and should not be used if a peer-reviewed reference is available; web citations should be brief and include the root URL and an abbreviated date accessed (www.amphibiaweb.org, 1 Jan 2013). Similarly, IUCN website citations should be cited as follows: “Wallace et al. 2013. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2013:e.T6494A43526147, 18 Dec 2020.” When citing a previously cited article a second time in your note, include the author and year, followed by “*op. cit.*” (Snow et al. 2007, *op. cit.*).

If specimens were collected, include the full, accepted name of the museum/collection and catalog number. Consult: Sabaj 2025 (available at: <https://www.asih.org/resources/standard-symbolic-codes>) for use of museum/collection names and abbreviations. If specimen collection occurred, or other manipulative work with live specimens (e.g., surgery to implant radios, nest excavation, etc.), you must include permit information that the work was conducted under. For authors affiliated with universities, this also requires including relevant IACUC approval information.

Acknowledgements, permit and IACUC information, and funding information should be included in the final paragraph of the note (before the author information). Please use initials to acknowledge individuals and do not include titles (e.g., “We thank T. LaDuc,” not “We would like to thank Dr. Travis LaDuc, Curator of Herpetology...”).

Author names are bolded and in all caps. If sequential authors share the same affiliation, list the first author, then second author, then shared affiliation. Please include an e-mail for at least one author (corresponding author). All authors of a note must include an affiliation, which at minimum is a city, state/province, and country. Do not include titles or job positions in the author affiliation. An example author section is shown in the paragraph below. Note there is not a comma between state and ZIP.

AUTHOR 1 NAME (e-mail: author1@email.com) and **AUTHOR 2 NAME**, Institutional Mailing Address, City, State ZIP, Country (e-mail: author2@email.com); **AUTHOR 3 NAME**, City, State ZIP, Country (e-mail: author3@email.com).

Submit manuscripts as Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx) files directly to the appropriate Section Editor. Initially, figures should be submitted as embedded images within the note file; however, upon acceptance/finalization of your note, a separate high-resolution JPG or TIFF file should be submitted to the Section Editor. Contact information for Natural History Note Section Editors can be found online here: <https://ssarherps.org/publications/herpetological-review/>. Section Editors should confirm receipt of your submission and will place it into a queue for review.

Example figure legend:

FIG. 1. Short but descriptive caption that includes the scientific name of the organism (if pictured) and location of the observation/event. Note that “Fig.” is in small caps. A photo credit can be included (e.g., “PHOTO BY DREW R. DAVIS”) at the end of the legend. Use capital letters (e.g., A, B, C) to label different

panels in a figure. Please place these panel labels in the upper left corner of the figure and ensure they are legible (i.e., they do not blend into the background). Panel lettering should be black or white.

Additional formatting notes:

- Please use American English, not British English (e.g., behavior not behaviour).
- Spell out all state names in the note (do not abbreviate them) and ensure country is included at first mention of the state (but not in successive mentions).
- Arrange all references chronologically within a series.
- Avoid use of professional titles in acknowledgments and exclude affiliations unless necessary.
- A period should be followed by a single space, never two spaces.
- When providing measurement information, please format as “150 mm SVL”, not “SVL = 150 mm.”
- In the text, please use “Fig.” (not Figure) and “Table” when referring to these.
- Use semicolons to separate authors with different affiliations; use commas to separate multiple authors with the same affiliation.
- It is not necessary to list emails for *all* authors, only the corresponding author and/or authors that would be of interest to contact regarding the note.
- Additional formatting styles include:
 - N = 12 eggs
 - $P < 0.001$
 - 78 ± 2.6
 - 1.7 m
 - 0800 h and 2330 h
- The abbreviation for Herpetological Review in in-text citations is “Herpetol. Rev.”
- Do not include URLs to video links that you (or coauthors) do not own. Please submit a .mp4 video file with the note, and if accepted, it will be submitted to the *Herpetological Review* repository.
- Ensure correct use of hyphens (-), en-dashes (–), and em-dashes (—), as well as surrounding spaces. Hyphens connect compound adjectives, en-dashes are used to separate numeric values (e.g., page ranges, date ranges, size ranges), and em-dashes are used in text to create emphasis, interruption, or clarification in a sentence.