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MORTALITY OF BULLFROGS (*RANA CATESBEIANA*) FROM AN IN-GROUND SWIMMING POOL

Little is known regarding the impact of in-ground swimming pools on herpetofaunal mortality. These structures may be a significant source of mortality to urban populations of amphibians and reptiles. Here we describe a mortality event at a single in-ground swimming pool (8 x 15 m, 1-2 m deep) located in the apartment complex immediately north and adjacent to the Louisiana State University in Shreveport campus (UTM 43,691,86X, 3,589,040,30Y [Zone 15]) and speculate regarding its implications.

On 24 September 2004 a band of rain associated with Tropical Storm Ivan hit Shreveport, Louisiana. This event occurred after a two-month drought. Precipitation stimulated movements of many species of anurans. We observed 3-4 juvenile *Rana catesbeiana* (SVL = 2.5-4.5 cm) trapped in the pool the night of 24 September 2004. By 27 August 2004, over 20 juvenile *R. catesbeiana* were observed in the pool. Unknown numbers were removed from the pool by apartment staff during this period. Among these, 14 frogs were recovered, still alive, from the pool. All but six died by 30 September 2004 (mortality >70%). Whether their inability to escape from the pool, the chlorine and other chemicals used to treat the pool water, or an interaction between these factors ultimately led to the frog's demise is unknown. The fact that entrapped frogs died as long as three days after being removed from the pool suggests that even if devices to facilitate escape are provided, mortality may still be significant.

This observation begs to question how large this mortality event could have been at the landscape level. Swimming pools are very popular in the Shreveport area. On one block I counted 6/10 of houses with pools of which one was in-ground. If 1/10 homes has an in-ground pool we can extrapolate that, among 171,826 housing units located in Shreveport, Louisiana (US Census Bureau 2003) there could be as many as 17,183 in-ground

swimming pools. Assuming all pools were affected similarly to our pool, as many as 343,660 frogs may have succumbed. Compound this for each rain event during the year and the amphibian deaths become astronomical. MLM is frequently informed of the dozens of treefrogs fished from filter baskets in home swimming pools during the summer in Shreveport. It is well known that frogs mobilize after heavy rains. The ability of a pool, whether in-ground or above ground, to entrap organisms is an important urban wildlife issue receiving relatively little attention. This observation and associated speculation provides additional evidence that further research is needed to determine what impact swimming pools have on urban wildlife and what methods can be contrived to prevent future mortality events.

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ARBOREAL BEHAVIOR IN THE NORTHERN CURLYTAIL LIZARD

Northern Curlytail Lizards (*Leiocephalus carinatus armouri*) are a spreading invader in southern Florida (Weigl et al. 1969. *Copeia* 1969: 841-842; Smith et al. 2004. *Internat. Biodeter. Biodegrad.* 54: 261-264; Meshaka et al. 2005. *Southeast. Nat.* 4(3): 521-526; Meshaka et al. 2006. *Journ. Kansas Herpetol.* 17: 6). This lizard species joined the herpetofauna of Florida Atlantic University's MacArthur Campus in Jupiter, Florida, in late 2005 (Moore pers. obs.). It has displaced Brown Anoles (*Anolis sagrei*) as a dominant terrestrial lizard in certain portions of the campus. In the presence of Northern Curlytail Lizards, Brown Anoles have declined in numbers and altered their behaviors by changing timing of basking to later in the day (after Northern Curlytail Lizards have gone into their burrows) and selecting more elevated basking sites (Jameson 2007. Niche adjustment of the Brown Anoles after introduction of the Northern Curlytail lizard. Unpublished senior thesis, Wilkes Honors College, Florida Atlantic University, Jupiter; Moore pers. obs.), similar to behaviors documented in the Bahamas (Schoener et al. 2002. *Ecol. Monogr.* 72(3): 383-407; Losos et al. 2004. *Nature* 432: 505-508). The selection of elevated basking sites is an indication that Northern Curlytail Lizards less frequently climb into the vegetation and are mainly ground-dwelling lizards.

However, I report here on unusual arboreal behavior observed in Northern Curlytail Lizards at a particular site. The site is a pair of buildings on the northern boundary of the MacArthur Campus, the