

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

IN MEMORIAM:

PHILIP A. MEDICA, HERPETOLOGICAL STALWART (1941–2020)

TODD C. ESQUE, R. BRUCE BURY, AND KEN NUSSEAR

The following material is provided by the authors and was not subjected to editing by *Herpetological Conservation and Biology*.

Philip A. Medica

Biologist

As a Biologist with the U.S. Geological Survey, Western Ecological Research Center, at the Henderson, Nevada Integrated Science Office, Phil has conducted extensive field studies pertaining to desert tortoise ecology, specifically: long-term growth, reproduction, translocation, distribution, density sampling techniques, and survivorship. Most recently, Phil has served as the Desert Tortoise Recovery Coordinator for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (2000-2004), initiating rangewide desert tortoise population monitoring throughout the Mojave Desert using the Line Distance Sampling technique.

Additionally, he has participated as a member of the Desert Tortoise Recovery Plan Assessment Committee, Desert Tortoise Management Oversight Group, and the California Desert Managers Group. In his present position, Phil actively participates in field research studies pertaining to desert ecology, and reptilian and mammalian population studies. He oversees the U.S. Geological Surveys' participation in the peer review of annual and final reports submitted to the Clark County Multispecies Habitat Conservation Plan, and organizes the peer review committee for their Annual Report Symposium. Phil continues to provide technical assistance to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, Department of Defense, and the Department of Energy as well as state and county governmental municipalities.

Phil has conducted studies on reptiles and small mammals throughout the southwestern U.S. for the past 45 years. Those studies include the long-term effects of gamma irradiation upon natural populations of animals and plants at the Nevada Test Site, Rock Valley facility, documenting sterility among the lizard inhabitants, in addition to lizard demographic and reproductive studies. Additionally, he has conducted studies documenting environmental and anthropogenic impacts upon the ecosystem, i.e. drought as well as favorable rainfall years, and the impact of disturbance from roads, fire,

grading, cratering from underground nuclear tests, irradiation, and small burrowing mammals on natural populations of plants and animals. Phil has sustained a program to study growth of desert tortoises on the same semi-wild cohort of animals continuously for the past 46 years at the Rock Valley, Nevada study site.

Presently, Phil is a member of 12 regional, national, and or international scientific societies, and has authored or co-authored more than 80 reports, scientific papers, and peer reviewed journal articles pertaining to the arid land ecology, ecology and natural history of reptiles and small mammals of the southwestern United States.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Herpetology: Reptilian ecology, population dynamics, reproduction, and natural history.
Ecology: Impact of drought upon plant ecology, physiology, and the distribution of plants and animals, the impact of disturbance, and long-term studies of plants and animals in desert ecosystems.

Radiation Biology: Impact of ionizing radiation upon natural populations of animals and plants.

Mammalogy: Natural history, ecology and population dynamics of desert rodents.

EDUCATION

M.S. Biology (Herpetology), 1966, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, New Mexico

Thesis: Food habits, habitat preference, reproduction and diurnal activity in four sympatric species of whiptail lizards (*Cnemidophorus*) in south central New Mexico.

B.S. Wildlife Management (Game Management), 1964, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, New Mexico

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

2015-2020. *Emeritus* Biologist. USGS, Western Ecological Research Center, Las Vegas Nevada Field Station, Henderson, Nevada

April 2004-2015. Biologist, USGS, Western Ecological Research Center, Las Vegas Nevada Field Station, Henderson, Nevada

Aug 2000-April 2004, Desert Tortoise Recovery Coordinator, Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Southern Nevada Field Office, Las Vegas, Nevada

July 1997-Aug 2000, Station Leader/Research Wildlife Biologist, USGS, Western Ecological Research Center, Las Vegas Field Station

Nov 1993-Oct 1998, Research Wildlife Biologist, National Biological Survey, Mid-continent Ecological Science Center, Las Vegas, Nevada

April 1992-Oct 1993, Ecologist, Bureau of Land Management, Las Vegas District Office, Las Vegas, Nevada

March 1987 - April 1992, Senior Ecologist, Reynolds Electrical & Engineering Co., Inc. Nevada Test Site, Mercury, Nevada

Sept 1984-Present, Research Associate, Division of Herpetology, Museum of Natural History of Los Angeles County, Los Angeles, California.

July 1975-Sept 1979, Treasurer, Herpetologists' League

Jan 1971-Dec 1972 & Jan 1975-Sept 1981, Field Research Coordinator, University of California, Laboratory of Nuclear Medicine & Radiation Biology, Nevada Test Site, Mercury, Nevada

Feb 1967-Sept 1981, Staff Research Associate, University of California, Laboratory of Nuclear Medicine & Radiation Biology, Nevada Test Site, Mercury, Nevada

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

American Society of Ichthyologists & Herpetologists

Arizona-Nevada Academy of Science

Chelonian Research Society

Desert Tortoise Council

Ecological Society of America

Herpetologists' League

International Union for the Conservation of Nature/Turtle & Tortoise Specialist Group

Southwestern Association of Naturalists

Society for the Study of Amphibians & Reptiles

The Society of the Sigma Xi

The Wildlife Society

SCIENTIFIC PRODUCTS (Peer Reviewed)

Medica, P.A. *In Review*. COLEONYX VARIEGATUS (Western Banded Gecko).

STERILITY. Natural History Note. Herpetological Review.

Johnson, A.K. and **Medica, P.A.**, 2017. *Crotalus oreganus lutosus* (Great Basin Rattlesnake). Defensive behavior/head hiding and tongue display. *Herpetological Review*, 48(1), pp.209-210.

Esque, T.C, **P.A. Medica**, D.F. Shryock, L.A. DeFalco, R.H. Webb, and R.B. Hunter. 2015. Direct and indirect effects of environmental variability on growth and survivorship

of pre-reproductive Joshua trees, *Yucca brevifolia* Engelm. (Agavaceae). *American Journal of Botany* 102(1):1-7.

Drake, K.K., Nussear, K.E., Esque, T.C., Barber, A.M., Vittum, K.M., **Medica, P.A.**, Tracy, C.R. and Hunter Jr, K.W., 2012. Does translocation influence physiological stress in the desert tortoise?. *Animal Conservation*, 15(6), pp.560-570.

Nussear, K.E., Tracy, C.R., **Medica, P.A.**, Wilson, D.S., Marlow, R.W. and Corn, P.S., 2012. Translocation as a conservation tool for Agassiz's desert tortoises: survivorship, reproduction, and movements. *The Journal of Wildlife Management*, 76(7), pp.1341-1353.

Drake, K.K., **P.A. Medica**, K.E. Nussear, and T.C. Esque. 2012. GOPHERUS AGASSIZII (Agassiz's Desert Tortoise). SCUTE ANOMALIES: DYSECDYSIS/ SCUTE SLOUGHING. *Herpetological Review*. 43(3):473-474.

Medica, P.A., Nussear, K.E., Esque, T.C. and Saethre, M.B., 2012. Long-term growth of desert tortoises (*Gopherus agassizii*) in a southern Nevada population. *Journal of Herpetology*, pp.213-220.

Medica, P.A. (2011). *Coluber (=Masticophis) flagellum piceus* (Red Racer). BEHAVIOR: ARBOREAL/ NOCTURNAL. Natural History Note. *Herpetological Review* 42(4):612-613.

Medica, P.A. 2010. **GAMBELIA WISLIZENII** (Leopard Lizard). **ESCAPE BEHAVIOR/SWIMMING AND FLOATING**. *Herpetological Review* 41(3):354-355.

Esque, T.C., K.E. Nussear, K. K. Drake, A.D. Walde, K.H. Berry, R.C. Averill-Murray, A.P. Woodman, W.I. Boarman, **P.A. Medica**, J. Mack, and J.S. Heaton. 2010. Effects of subsidized predators, resource variability, and human population density on desert tortoise populations in the Mojave Desert, USA. *Endangered Species Research*. 12:167-177.

Medica, P.A. and P. Greger. 2009. *Gopherus agassizii* (Desert Tortoise). PREDATION/MOUNTAIN LION. Natural History Note. *Herpetological Review*. 41(1):75-77

Medica, P.A. 2009. *Crotalus scutulatus scutulatus* (Mojave Rattlesnake). DEFENSIVE BEHAVIOR/SALTATION AND HEAD HIDING. Natural History Note. *Herpetological Review*. 41(1):95-97.

Webb, R.H., Defalco, L.A., Esque, T.C., Medica, P.A., Fenstermaker, L., Heaton, J., Hughson, D., McDonald, E. and Miller, D., 2009. A review of selected long-term ecological studies of the Mojave Desert ecosystem. *Webb, RH; Fenstermaker, LF; Heaton, JS; Hughson, DL*, pp.429-456.

Webb, R.H., DeFalco, L.A., Esque, T.C., and **Medica, P.A.** 2009. A review of selected long-term ecological studies of the Mojave Desert. pp 429-456. In Webb, R.H.,

Fenstermaker, L.F., Heaton, J.S., Hughson, D.L., McDonald, E.V., and Miller D.M. (editors), *The Mojave Desert: Ecosystem Processes and Sustainability*: Reno, University of Nevada Press. xxvii + 481 pp.

Belnap, J., Webb, R.H., Miller, M.E., Miller, D.M., DeFalco, L A., **Medica, P.A.**, Brooks, M.L., Esque, T.C., and Bedford, D. 2008. Monitoring ecosystem quality and function in arid settings of the Mojave Desert: U.S. Geological Survey Scientific Investigations Report. 2008-5064. 120p. <http://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2008/5064>.

Heaton, J.S., M.E. Cablk, K.E. Nussear, T.C. Esque, **P.A. Medica**, J.C. Sagebiel, and S.S. Francis. 2008. Comparison of human versus wildlife detector dog investigator effects. Revision sent to *Southwestern Naturalist*. December 2008.

Curtin, A.L., G.R. Zug, **P.A. Medica**, J.R. Spotila. 2008. Assessing age in the desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*): testing skeletochronology with know-age individuals. *Endangered Species Research*. 5:21-27.

Nussear, K.E., T.C. Esque, J.S. Heaton, M.E. Cablk, K.K. Drake, C. Valentin, J.L. Yee, and **P.A. Medica**. 2008. Are wildlife detector dogs or people better at finding desert tortoises (*Gopherus agassizii*)? *Herpetological Conservation and Biology*. 3(1):103-115.

Heaton, J.S., K.E. Nussear, T.C. Esque, R. Inman, F.M. Davenport, T.E. Leuteritz, **P.A. Medica**, N.W. Strout, P.A. Burgess, and L. Benvenuti. 2008. Spatially explicit decision support for selecting translocation areas for desert tortoises. *Biodiversity and Conservation*. DOI 10.1007/s10531-007-9282-3. 16 pp.

Field, K.J., C.R. Tracy, **P.A. Medica**, R.W. Marlow, P.S. Corn. 2007. Return to the wild: Translocation as a tool in conservation of the Desert Tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*). *Biological Conservation*. 136:232-245.

Medica, P.A. and S.E. Eckert. 2007. *Gopherus agassizii* (Desert Tortoise). FOOD/MECHANICAL INJURY. Natural History Note. *Herpetological Review*. 38(4):446-448

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2006. Range-wide monitoring of the Mojave population of the desert tortoise: 2001-2005. Summary Report by the Desert Tortoise Recovery Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Reno, Nevada.

[Prepared by the Desert Tortoise Monitoring Committee (listed in alphabetical order): Allison, L.J., R.C. Averill-Murray, B. Frenneman, P.S. Corn, C. Everly, J.S. Heaton, R.W. Marlow, **P.A. Medica**, K. E. Nussear and C.R. Tracy].

Tracy, C.R., R. Averill-Murray, W.I. Boarman, D. Delehanty, J. Heaton, E. McCoy, D. Morafka, K. Nussear, B. Hagerty, **P.Medica**. 2004. Desert Tortoise Recovery Plan Assessment Report. xxii + 254 pp.

<https://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/arizona/Documents/SpeciesDocs/DesertTortoise/DTRPA Creport.pdf>

Webb, R.H., M.B. Murov, T.C. Esque, D.E. Boyer, L.A. DeFalco, D.F. Haines, D. Oldershaw, S.J. Scoles, K.A. Thomas, J.B. Blainey, and **P.A. Medica**. 2003. Perennial vegetation data from permanent plots on the Nevada Test Site, Nye County, Nevada. U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 03-336. 251 pp.

Theodorakis, C.W., J.W. Bickham, T. Lamb, **P.A. Medica**, and T.B. Lyne. 2001. Integration of genotoxicity and population genetic analyses in kangaroo rats (*Dipodomys merriami*) exposed to radionuclide contamination at the Nevada Test Site. *Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry*. 20:317-326.

Anderson, D.R., K.P. Burnham, B.C. Lubow, L. Thomas, P.S. Corn, **P.A. Medica**, and R.W. Marlow. 2001. Field testing line transect estimation of desert tortoise abundance. *J. Wildlife Mgt.* 65:583-597.

Webb, R.H., T.C. Esque, **P.A. Medica**, L.A. DeFalco, and M.M. Murov. 2001. Monitoring of ecosystem dynamics in the Mojave Desert: The Beatley permanent plots. USGS Fact Sheet FS-040-01. 4pp.

Lovich, J., **P. Medica**, H. Avery, K. Meyer, G. Bowser, and A. Brown. 1999. Studies of reproductive output of the desert tortoise in Joshua Tree National Park, the Mojave National Preserve and comparative sites. *Park Science* 19(1):22-24.

Berry, K.H. and **P. Medica**. 1995. Desert tortoises in the Mojave and Colorado Deserts, pp 135-137. *In* R.W. McDiarmid (science ed.) *Amphibians and Reptiles*. *In* E.T. LaRoe, G.S. Farris, C.E. Puckett, P.D. Doran, and M.J. Mac (eds.). *Our living resources. A report to the nation on the distribution, abundance, and health of U.S. plants, animals, and ecosystems*. U.S. Department of Interior, National Biological Service, Washington, D.C. 530 pp.

Germano, J.J., R.B. Bury, T.C. Esque, T.H. Fritts, and **P.A. Medica**. 1994. Range and habitats of the desert tortoise. pp 73-84. *In* R.B. Bury and D.J. Germano (eds.). *Biology of North American Tortoises: Fish & Wildlife Research 13*, U.S. Department of Interior, National Biological Survey.

Bury, R.B., T.C. Esque, L. DeFalco, and **P.A. Medica**. 1994. Distribution, habitat use, and protection of the desert tortoise in the eastern Mojave Desert. Pp 57-72. *In* R.B. Bury and D.J. Germano (eds.). *Biology of North American Tortoises: Fish & Wildlife Research 13*, U.S. Department of Interior, National Biological Survey.

Saethre, M.B. and **P.A. Medica**. 1993. Geographic Distribution: *Hemidactylus turcicus*. *Herpetological Review*. 24(4):154-155.

Delaney, D.E., **P.A. Medica**, and D.B. Hardenbrook. 1991. Geographic Distribution: *Diadophis punctatus regalis*. *Herpetological Review* 22(1):26.

Anspaugh, L.R., S.C. Black, C.F. Costa, D.R. Elle, E.H. Essington, R.O. Gilbert, D.A. Gonzalez, R.B. Hunter, R.D. McArthur, **P.A. Medica**, T.P. O'Farrell, S.E. Patton, E. M. Romney, J.H. Shinn, and C.B. Thompson. 1990. Radiation-related monitoring and environmental research at the Nevada Test Site. In: R.H. Gray (ed.) Twenty-eighth Hanford Symposium on Health and the Environment. pp.159-167. Richland, Washington

Medica, P.A. 1990. Noteworthy mammal distribution records for the Nevada Test Site. Great Basin Nat. 50(1):83-84.

Medica, P.A., O.L. Haworth, and M.S. Kelly. 1990. Geographic Distribution: *Eumeces gilberti rubricaudatus*. Herpetological Review. 21(2):40.

Smith, D.D., **P.A. Medica**, and S.R. Sanborn. 1987. Ecological comparison of sympatric populations of sand lizards (*Cophosaurus texanus* and *Callisaurus draconoides*). Great Basin Naturalist. 47(2):175-185

Turner, F.B., **P.A. Medica** and R.B. Bury. 1987. Age-size relationships of desert tortoises (*Gopherus agassizii*) in southern Nevada. Copeia. 1987(4):974-979.

Nagy, K.A. and **P.A. Medica**. 1986. Physiological ecology of desert tortoises in southern Nevada. Herpetologica. 42(1):73-92.

Medica, P.A., C.L. Lyons, and F.B. Turner. 1986. "Tapping": A technique for capturing tortoises. Herpetological Review. 17(1):15-16

Nagy, K.A. and P.A. Medica. 1985. Altered energy metabolism in an irradiated population of lizards at the Nevada Test Site. Radiation Res. 103(1):98-104

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Medica, P.A. and F.B. Turner. 1984. Natural longevity of lizards in southern Nevada. Herpetological Review. 15(2):34-35.

Turner, F.B. and **P.A. Medica**. 1982. The distribution and abundance of the flat-tailed horned lizard (*Phrynosoma mcallii*). Copeia. 1982 (4):815-823.

Turner, F.B., **P.A. Medica**, R.I. Jennrich, and B.G. Maza. 1982. Frequencies of broken tails among *Uta stansburiana* in southern Nevada and a test of the predation hypothesis. Copeia. 1982. (4):835-840.

Turner, F.B., **P.A. Medica**, K.W. Bridges, and R.I. Jennrich. 1982. A population model of the lizard *Uta stansburiana*, in southern Nevada. Ecological Monographs. 52(3):243-259,

- Davis, J. and **P.A. Medica**. 1981. Geographic Distribution: *Rhinocheilus lecontei*. Herpetological Review. 12(2):66.
- Medica, P.A.** 1980. Locality records of *Rhinocheilus lecontei* in the United States and Mexico. Herpetological Review. 11(2):42.
- Medica, P.A.**, R.B. Bury, and R. Luckenbach. 1980. Drinking and construction of water catchments by the desert tortoise, *Gopherus agassizii*, in the Mojave Desert. Herpetologica. 36(4):301-304.
- Pearson, A.K., P. Licht, K.A. Nagy, and **P.A. Medica**. 1978. Endocrine function and reproductive impairment in an irradiated population of the lizard *Uta stansburiana*. Radiation Res. 76:610-623.
- Turner, F.B. and **P.A. Medica**. 1977. Sterility among female lizards (*Uta stansburiana*) exposed to continuous gamma irradiation. Radiation Res. 70:154-163.
- Vollmer, A.T., B.G. Maza, **P.A. Medica**, F.B. Turner, and S.A. Bamberg. 1976. The impact of off-road vehicles on a desert ecosystem. Environmental Management. 1(2):115-129.
- Medica, P.A.** and R.G. Arndt. 1976. Opportunistic feeding in *Sceloporus horridus* from Jalisco, Mexico. Great Basin Nat. 36(2):108-110.
- Turner, F.B., **P.A. Medica**, and B.W. Kowalewsky. 1976. Energy utilization by a desert lizard (*Uta stansburiana*). U.S. International Biological Program, Desert Biome Monograph No. 1., 57 pp.
- Medica, P.A.** and F.B. Turner. 1976. Reproduction by *Uta stansburiana* in southern Nevada. J. Herpetology. 10(2):123-128.
- Medica, P.A.** and F.B. Turner. 1975. Studies of reptiles in Rock Valley. In F.B. Turner (ed.) Rock Valley Validation Site Report. U.S. International Biological Program, Desert Biome Research Memo., RM 75-2:46-48.
- Medica, P.A.**, R.B. Bury, and F.B. Turner. 1975. Growth of the desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*) in Nevada. Copeia 1975(4):639-643.
- Medica, P.A.** and R.G. Arndt. 1975. Additional records of reptiles from Jalisco, Mexico. Great Basin Nat. 35(3):317-318.
- Medica, P.A.** 1975. *Rhinocheilus* generic, and *Rhinocheilus lecontei* species accounts. Catalog of American Amphibians and Reptiles. 175.1-175.4.

- Medica, P.A.** and L.J. Vitt. 1974. Geographic distribution: *Eumeces gilberti arizonensis*. Herpetological Review. 5(3):69-70.
- Medica, P.A.** and B.G. Maza. 1974. Geographic distribution: *Masticophis bilineatus*. Herpetological Review. 5(3):70.
- Mullen, R.K. and **P.A. Medica**. 1974. Internal dosimetry in small vertebrates resident in a fallout field. Trans. Amer. Nuclear Soc. (Abstract) 18:391.
- Smith, D.D. and **P.A. Medica**. 1973. Geographic distribution: *Thamnophis cyrtopsis*. Hiss News - Jour. 1(5):153.
- Medica, P.A.**, F.B. Turner, and D.D. Smith. 1973. Hormonal induction of color change in female leopard lizards (*Crotaphytus wislizenii*). Copeia. 1973 (4):658-661.
- Turner, F.B., P. Licht, J.D. Thrasher, **P.A. Medica**, and J.R. Lannom, Jr. 1973. Radiation-induced sterility in natural populations of lizards (*Crotaphytus wislizenii* and *Cnemidophorus tigris*). Proc. 3rd Natl. Radioecology Symposium. pp. 1131-1143.
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- Turner, F.B., **P.A. Medica**, J.R. Lannom, Jr., and G.A. Hoddenbach. 1969. A demographic analysis of fenced populations of the whiptail lizard, *Cnemidophorus tigris*, in southern Nevada. Southwestern Nat. 14:189-202.
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Taylor, H.L. and **P.A. Medica**. 1966. Natural hybridization of the bisexual teiid lizard *Cnemidophorus inornatus* and the unisexual *Cnemidophorus perplexus* in southern New Mexico. Univ. Colorado Studies, Series in Biology. No. 22:1-9.

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ADDITIONAL PUBLICATION AND REPORTS

Esque, T. C., Nussear, K. E., Drake, K. K., Berry, K. H., **Medica, P. A.**, and Heaton, J. S. 2009. Amendment to the Desert Tortoise Translocation Plan for Fort Irwin's Land Expansion Program at the U. S. Army National Training Center (NTC) & Fort Irwin: Administrative report for the U.S. Army National Training Center, Directorate of Public Works, 34 p.

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Tracy, C. R., R. C. Averill-Murray, W. I. Boarman, D. J. Delehanty, J. S. Heaton, E. D. McCoy, D. J. Morafka, K. E. Nussear, B. E. Hagerty, and **P. A. Medica**. 2004. Desert Tortoise Recovery Plan Assessment. Technical Report US Fish and Wildlife Service, Reno, NV.

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Medica, P.A. 1994. Study of an off-highway vehicle race in Eldorado Valley "Twilight 200" March 27, 1993. Bureau of Land Management Draft Report. 29pp.

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Saethre, M.B. and **P.A. Medica.** 1992. Status of small mammals on the NTS in 1988. In Hunter (ed.) Status of the flora and fauna of the Nevada Test Site. Reynolds Elect. & Eng. Co., Inc. Report DOE/NV/10630-29. pp 97-160.

Hunter, R.B., M.B. Saethre, **P.A. Medica,** P.D. Greger and E.M. Romney. 1991. Biological studies in the impact zone of liquefied gaseous fuels spill test facility in Frenchman Flat, Nevada. Reynolds Elect. & Eng. Co., Inc. DOE/NV/10630-15. 42 pp.

Medica, P.A. 1991. Lizard Study Procedures. Reynolds Electrical and Engineering Co., Inc. Detailed Procedure. AABAF.D.05.00. Rev. 1. 22 pp.

Medica, P.A. 1991. Tortoise Detailed Procedure. Reynolds Electrical and Engineering Co., Inc. Detailed Procedure. AABAF.D.04.00. Rev. 1. 18 pp.

Medica, P.A. and M.B. Saethre. 1991. Small Mammal Detailed Procedure. Reynolds Electrical and Engineering Co., Inc. Detailed Procedure. AABAF.06.00. Rev. 1. 14 pp.

Medica, P.A. 1992. Status of Reptiles in 1988. In Hunter (ed.) Status of the Flora and Fauna of the Nevada Test Site, 1988. Reynolds Elect. & Eng. Co., Inc. Report DOE/NV/10630-29. pp 59-95.

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