

Three noteworthy herpetofaunal records from Belize

From 16 to 29 January 2016, we conducted fieldwork in the Belizean districts of Belize, Stann Creek, and Toledo. We encountered one individual of the Blue-spotted Mexican Treefrog, *Smilisca cyanosticta*, one of the White-lipped Frog, *Leptodactylus fragilis*, and two of the Black-striped Snake, *Coniophanes imperialis*, each outside of its previously known range. We captured the individuals and identified them with the aid of a magnifying glass, and by consulting the relevant literature (Lee, 2000; Köhler, 2003, 2011). Subsequently, we photographed the individuals and released them at their respective sites of capture. We deposited the photographs (Fig. 1) in the digital collection of the University of Texas at Arlington (UTADC), and elaborate on each of the records and their relevance below.

Amphibia: Anura

Family Hylidae

***Smilisca cyanosticta* (Smith, 1953).** BELIZE: STANN CREEK: Constituency of Stann Creek West, eastern Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary, 6.1 km E of Kendal (16.79114°N, 88.43877°W; WGS 84); elev. 115 m; 23 January 2016; Brittney A. White, Carlos J. Pavón Vázquez. At ca. 0045 h, an adult individual (UTADC-8659; Fig. 1A) was observed ca. 70 cm above the ground on a broad leaf, near a stream in tropical evergreen forest. The distribution of the species in Belize has been poorly documented (Meyer and Farneti Foster, 1996). The present record is located ca. 20 km E (straight line) from the closest known locality in the western Cockscomb Basin, Stann Creek, Belize (Lee, 1996). This individual constitutes the second known locality for the District of Stann Creek, the fifth for Belize, and the easternmost for the species (Lee, 1996; Duellman, 2001). Other species of amphibians and reptiles found at the site were *Craugastor sabrinus*, *Rana (Lithobates) brownorum*, and *Anolis (Norops) lemurinus*.

Family Leptodactylidae

***Leptodactylus fragilis* (Brocchi, 1877).** BELIZE: TOLEDO: Constituency of Toledo West, Lubaantun Ruins (16.28165°N, 88.95966°W; WGS 84); elev. 51 m; 20 January 2016; Alexis S. Harrison, Inbar P. Maayan, Carlos J. Pavón-Vázquez, Brittney A. White. An adult individual (UTADC-8658; Fig. 1B) was found among the ruins of a Mayan building at ca. 2000 h. Induced grassland surrounded the ruins, but tropical evergreen forest is found nearby. The present record is the southernmost for the species in Belize, with the closest known locality 14 mi NE of Golden Stream, Toledo, Belize (Lee, 1996), 42.2 km ENE (straight line) from ours. Other species of amphibians and reptiles found at the site were *Incilius valliceps*, *Eleutherodactylus leprus*, *A. lemurinus*, *A. rodriguezii*, *Coleonyx elegans*, and *Scincella cherriei*.

Reptilia: Squamata

Family Dipsadidae

***Coniophanes imperialis* (Baird and Girard, 1859).** BELIZE: BELIZE: Constituency of Belize Rural South, Ambergris Caye, 4.5 km S of San Pedro (17.88662°N, 87.98469° W; WGS 84); elev. 14 m; 29 January 2016; Carlos J. Pavón-Vázquez. An adult individual (UTADC-8656; Fig. 1C) was found active in leaf litter at ca. 1820 h, in chit palm-pine forest. BELIZE: BELIZE: Constituency of Belize Rural South, Ambergris Caye, San Pedro (17.909829°N, 87.972223°W; WGS 84); elev. 6 m; 29 January 2016; Alexis S. Harrison, Inbar P. Maayan, Carlos J. Pavón-Vázquez. An adult snake (UTADC-8657; Fig. 1D) with an incomplete tail was seen active on a dirt road in disturbed tropical semi-evergreen forest at ca. 2240 h. Robby Deans observed an individual of this species in Ambergris Caye on 28 November 2014, and uploaded a photograph, with obscured coordinates, to the iNaturalist online project. The present work, however, represents the first published records of *C. imperialis* from Ambergris Caye. The closest record to either of those presented here is from near Maskall, Belize, mainland Belize (Lee, 1996), ca. 36 km ESE (straight line) from our records. Other species of amphibians and reptiles found in San Pedro and vicinity were *Scinax staufferi*, *Smilisca baudinii*, *Basiliscus vittatus*, and *A. sagrei*, and *Ctenosaura similis*.

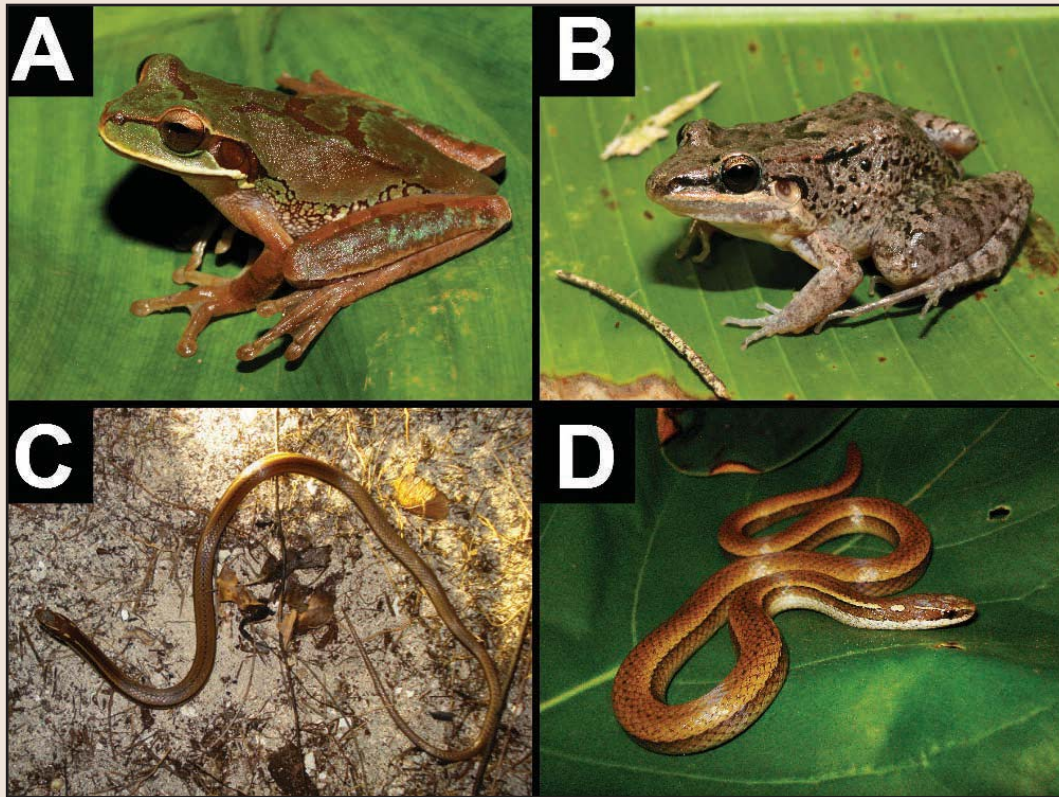


Fig. 1. Individuals of amphibians and reptiles from Belize reported here. (A) *Smilisca cyanosticta* from eastern Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary, 6.1 km E of Kendal, Constituency of Stann Creek West, Stann Creek (UTADC-8659); (B) *Leptodactylus fragilis* from Lubaantun Ruins, Constituency of Toledo West, Toledo (UTADC-8658); and (C) *Coniophanes imperialis* from 4.5 km S of San Pedro (UTADC-8656) and (D) from San Pedro (UTADC-8657), Ambergris Caye, Constituency of Belize Rural South, Belize. © Brittney A. White (A, B) and Carlos J. Pavón Vázquez (C, D)

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Order Testudines

Family: Dermatemydidae

Dermatemys mawii Gray, 1847. MEXICO: QUINTANA ROO: Municipio de Othón P. Blanco, Laguna Guerrero (18°44'5.63"N; 88°12'49.31"W), elev. 0 m; 3 October 2004; Humberto Bahena-Basave. This adult turtle (UTEP G-2016.19; Fig.1) was found while conducting manatee surveys in the lagoon. Two more turtles, an adult and a young individual (UTEP G-2016.20; Fig. 2), were found in Laguna San Felipe, Municipio de Bacalar (18°46'42.02"N; 88°28'47.98"W), elev. 0 m; 17 January 2006; Pablo M. Beutelspacher-García. Photographs of these individuals are deposited at the University of Texas at El Paso Biodiversity Digital Collection. The voucher from Laguna Guerrero (Fig. 1) represents the northernmost municipality record for Othón P. Blanco, considering that 13 specimens previously were reported from ca. 110 km SW in the Río Hondo (border between Mexico and Belize): one at 6 km NE La Unión (Bahena-Basave, 1995), and 12 at La Unión (González-Porter et al., 2013). The voucher from Laguna San Felipe (Fig. 2) represents the first municipality record for Bacalar. These two localities extend the range ca. 34 km NE and 35 km NW, respectively, from the closest known localities near Santa Elena in Corozal District, Belize: Río Hondo and Four Mile Lagoon (Moll, 1986), and according to geographic distribution maps proposed by Lee (1996), and González-Porter et al. (2013), they represent the northernmost records on the eastern portion of the Yucatan Peninsula.

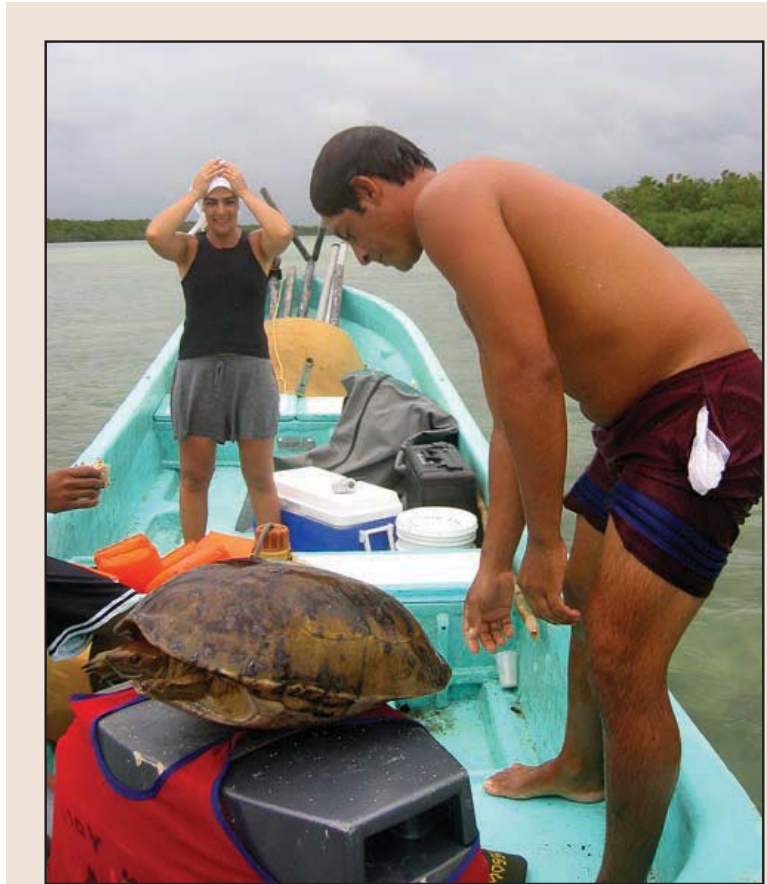


Fig. 1. An adult *Dermatemys mawii* (UTEP G-2016.19), collected during a manatee census at Laguna Guerrero, Quintana Roo, Mexico.

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