

Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

McCoy, C. J., and RICHARD C. VOGT. 1987. *Graptemys flavimaculata*.

***Graptemys flavimaculata* Cagle
Yellow-blotched Sawback**

Graptemys flavimaculata Cagle, 1954:167. Type-locality, "Pascagoula River, 13 miles S.W. of Lucedale, George Co., Mississippi," restricted to Pascagoula River at Old Benndale Crossing (T3S, R8W, Sec. 1), George County by Cliburn (1971:17). Holotype, Tulane Univ. 14798, juvenile male, collected 18 August 1952 by Fred R. Cagle (examined by RCV).

Graptemys oculifera flavimaculata: Mertens and Wermuth, 1955:355. See REMARKS.

Malaclemys flavomaculata: McDowell, 1964:274. See REMARKS.

• CONTENT. *Graptemys flavimaculata* is a monotypic species.

• DEFINITION. *Graptemys flavimaculata* is a small *Graptemys* of the "narrow headed" group (*sensu* Cagle, 1954). Sexual size dimorphism is pronounced: males reach 10 cm in carapace length, and females grow to 18 cm in carapace length. The carapace is oval to almost round (in adult females) in dorsal view, and vertebral scutes 1-4 bear laterally compressed, black, spine-like projections near their posterior margins. These vertebral spines are particularly prominent in juveniles and adult males. The posterior edge of the carapace is moderately serrate. The ground color of the carapace is olive green. Each pleural scute bears a central orange blotch or crescentic mark, and the marginal scutes have orange crescentic

marks or spots. The vertebral scutes have irregular orange blotches on each side of the medial spine. The plastron is cream with a dark pattern aligned along the seams. The pattern disappears with age. The ground color of the head, neck, legs and tail, is olive green, with prominent lemon-yellow stripes, especially on the underside of the neck and anterior surfaces of the forelimbs. Adult males have longer tails, elongate fore-claws, and prominent vertebral spines. Adult females have broader and lower shells.

• DESCRIPTIONS. The original description (Cagle, 1954) is thorough, based on large samples of both sexes and all age classes, and copiously illustrated. A general description is in Ernst and Barbour (1972). Killebrew (1977a) described the karyotype (2N = 50).

• ILLUSTRATIONS. Line drawings of the skull and shell characters are in Cagle (1954), Wermuth and Mertens (1961), Killebrew (1979), and Dobie (1981). Black and white photographs of male and female skulls are in Ernst and Barbour (1972). Cagle (1954) gave black and white photographs (dorsal, ventral and lateral views) of the holotype. Black and white photographs of living animals are in Wahlquist (1970), Ernst and Barbour (1972), and Floyd (1973). Color illustrations are in Cagle (1954), Ernst and Barbour (1972), Conant (1975), Behler and King (1979), and Pritchard (1979a). Killebrew (1977a) illustrated the chromosomes.

• DISTRIBUTION. *Graptemys flavimaculata* is restricted to the Pascagoula River system, Mississippi. Populations occur downriver to "15 miles from the mouth of the Pascagoula River, Jackson County" (Allen, 1932; Cagle, 1954). The species occurs northward in the Chickasawhay River to the vicinity of Enterprise, Clark County, and in the Leaf River, the other main branch of the Pascagoula River system, to the crossing of U.S. Highway 84, Covington County. It also occurs in some smaller tributary streams including Red Creek, Jackson County, and Tallahala Creek, Perry County, but is inexplicably absent from others (Cliburn, 1971:17). Its preferred habitat is river stretches with moderate current, sand bars, and abundant flood-stranded debris for basking sites.

• FOSSIL RECORD. None.

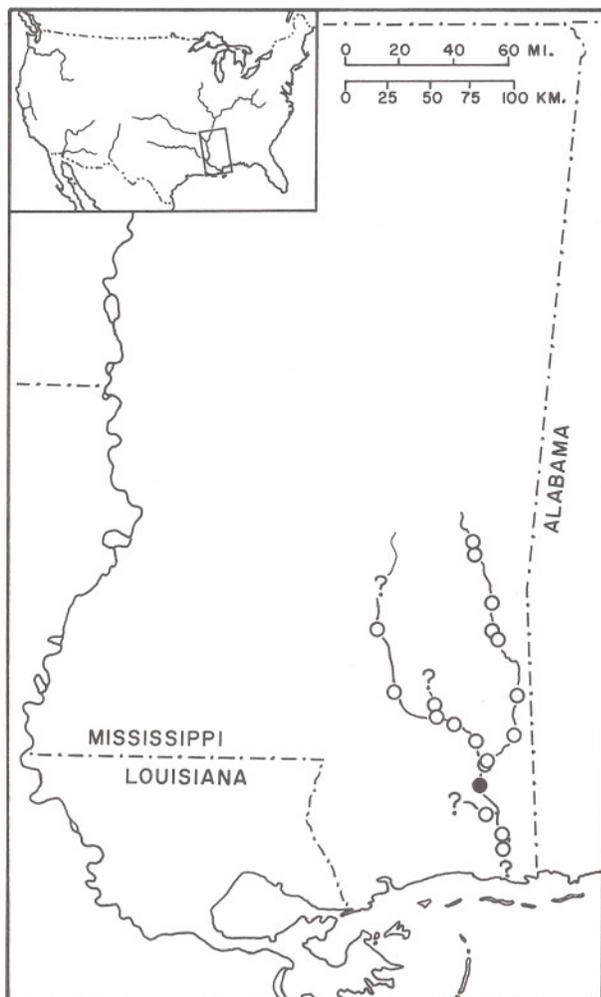
• PERTINENT LITERATURE. The best account of the species is that of Cagle (1954). Ernst and Barbour (1972) provided a general review. Cliburn (1971) gave many locality records, and McCoy and Vogt (1980) reviewed distribution and population status. Relationships were considered by Cagle (1954), Folkerts and Mount (1969), McKown (1972), Killebrew (1979), Pritchard (1979b), Dobie (1981), Bertl and Killebrew (1983), and Bickham and Carr (1983). Brown (1971) and Frair (1977) discussed aspects of hematology. Tinkle (1962) and Zangerl (1969) analyzed variation in seam alignments and carapace shields, respectively. The osteology was studied by Killebrew (1976, 1977b, 1979), and Dobie (1981). Courtship was described by Cagle (1955) and Wahlquist (1970). Cagle (1954), Tinkle (1958) and Wood (1977) considered the zoogeography of the species, and Cagle (1954, 1968), and Cliburn (1965) provided identification keys.

• REMARKS. Mertens and Wermuth (1955) considered *Graptemys flavimaculata* a subspecies of *G. oculifera*, but did not provide supporting data for this taxonomic allocation. Killebrew (1979), on the basis of a study of osteological characters, supported full species status for *G. flavimaculata*. McDowell (1964) considered all species of *Graptemys* congeneric with *Malaclemys*, an arrangement that has not received general acceptance (Dobie, 1981).

• ETYMOLOGY. The name *flavimaculata* (L., *flavus*, meaning yellow, and *maculatus*, spotted) refers to the orange spots on the shields of the carapace.

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MAP. Circles indicate locality records, and the solid circle marks the type-locality. Question marks indicate uncertain range limits.

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