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## TREETOAD STUDIES: CORRECTION

By

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Reasonably, Roger Conant, author of A Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians (Houghton Mifflin, Boston, 1958), asked for the specimens of "Hyla ocularis" which I reported in this journal (Vol. 3, No. 2, 38-9, 1962). I sent four specimens on 8th January, 1963. He writes (20th April): "Dr. [Philip W.] Smith and I had an opportunity to examine them together last week, and we believe that the frogs are not *ocularis*, but instead are members of the *Pseudacris triseriata* x *feriarum* complex."

The error is mine, and I thank Mr. Conant for the correction. I apologise to the readers of this journal, its editors, and Mr. Regan, S.J. for involving them. Ecological judgments must be based on careful systematics.

Two points of the article are worth repeating the ecological construction of the coastal plain of eastern North America (since my publication I found it so considered in Lobeck, A. K., Physiographic Provinces of North America (Geographical Press, Hammond, Maplewood, N.J., 1950)), and a possible re-direction of attention to the definition of "Pseudacris" (cf. Noble, G. K., Biology of the Amphibia (McGraw-Hill, New York 36, 1931: reprinted, Dover, New York 14, 1954), pp. 510-1).

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## LITTER RECORDS FOR COMMON LIZARD AND SLOW-WORM

By

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Minimum and maximum figures for litter sizes, either of young born, or (marked with \*) of probably fertile eggs recovered from the oviducts of specimens killed for study are given by the following authors.

<i>Lacerta vivipara</i>	min. 4—max. 10 (5-8 usual); Smith, 1954, p. 197 (U.K.)
	5-12; Panigel, 1956, p. 575 (France)
<i>Anguis fragilis</i>	7-19*; Rollinat, 1934, p. 218 (France)
	4-19 (6-12 usual); Smith, 1954, p. 176 (U.K.)
	max. 21*; Raynaud, 1962, p. 184 (France)

Among the specimens used for embryological research by us during 1962/63, a common lizard from southern England contained 14 living eggs in the oviducts, 7 on each side with one additional, infertile egg on the right. A slow-worm from Dorset contained 21 living oviducal eggs, 10 on the left and 11 on the right. These are maximum figures; we found a minimum of 3 for *Lacerta* and 5 for *Anguis*.

M. Johnson and E. Hazelwood (personal communication) report a slow-worm taken near Scarborough which gave birth to 22 living young in the Bellevue Museum, Halifax, Yorks. 14 were born in their membranes on October 2, 1962, and 8 more were found on October 9, together with 6 more eggs which did not hatch. 2 of the latter seemed infertile, but the remainder contained embryos 30 to 70 mm. long. This total of 26 fertile eggs is perhaps the greatest recorded, at least in this country.

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## REVIEWS

*SNAKES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA*: by VIVIAN F. M. FITZSIMONS. Macdonald, London, 1962. 423 pp., 74 colour-plates, 43 monochrome photographs, 260 line-drawings, 77 range maps. Price £7 10s.

To quote from the foreword, "Dr. FitzSimons was destined to write this book", and certainly very few other herpetologists could have attempted it. The amount of information packed into its 400-odd pages is quite remarkable.