

## The Occurrence of a Malformed Leopard Frog (*Rana sphenocephala*) from Florida

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For more than 250 years, reports of amphibian malformations have been widespread (Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center, 1997). Potential causes of malformations or atypical development are chemicals (Maden, 1993; Harmon *et al.*, 1995; Ouellet *et al.* 1997), and trematodes (Sessions and Ruth, 1990). There have been four previous reports of amphibian malformations from Florida, a cricket frog (*Acris gryllus*) in 1969 from Levy Co. (Christman, 1970), a leopard frog (*Rana sphenocephala*) in 1954 from Jackson Co., an unidentified treefrog (*Hyla* sp.) in 1991-1992 from Highlands Co., and a Cuban treefrog (*Osteopilus septentrionalis*) in 1997 from Broward Co. (Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center, 1997). Here we report the fifth overall occurrence of an amphibian malformation from Florida, including the second of a the Florida leopard frog (*Rana sphenocephala*) from approximately 750 km south of the previous reported specimen.

On 3 December 1970, a malformed Florida leopard frog (*Rana sphenocephala*) was collected by M. L. May at the Collier-Seminole State Park, Collier Co., FL, and was deposited in the Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida (UF 112078). This specimen has a total of nine limbs, with six radiating out of the left shoulder girdle (Fig. 1). The cause for this malformed frog is unknown, however, it is the first known case of an amphibian malformation in southwestern peninsular Florida.

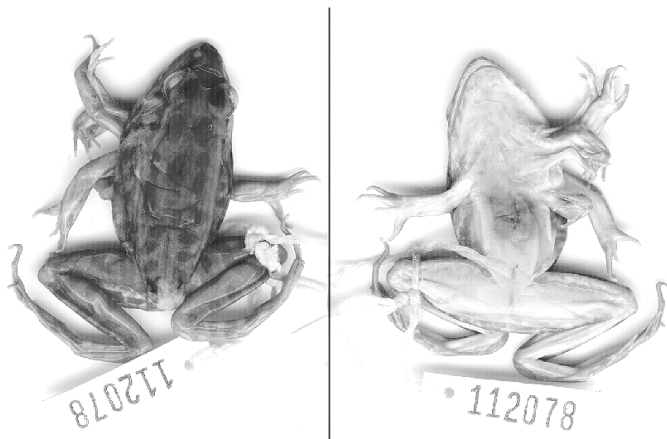


Fig. 1. Malformed Florida leopard frog (*Rana sphenocephala*) from Collier Co., Florida.

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