

near El Mezquite (26.92268°N, 102.43409°W, datum NAD27; 1030 m elev.), we came across a female *Aphonopelma* sp. (55.20 mm TL, 19.64 mm median length of the carapace) at 1745 h that had immobilized a female *Phrynosoma modestum* (SVL = 84.44 mm; TL = 154.53 mm). As we approached the tarantula, after taking a series of photos, it released the horned lizard. Inspecting the lizard carefully, we found no sign of puncture holes on the head or any other part of the body, but it appeared that a great quantity of blood had come from the left eye. After measuring the lizard we released it *in situ*, and it appeared to move with some difficulty, perhaps from the trauma of the event. The tarantula was collected for future behavioral studies (CAFCEB-UANL-T500). At present the species has not been identified. This event occurred about 40 cm from a burrow (ca. 11.5 cm diam), which it may have occupied.

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**PLESTIODON FASCIATUS (Five-lined Skink). HIBERNATION.**

Few published observations of hibernation or hibernacula are available for *Plestiodon fasciatus* (COSEWIC 2007. COSEWIC Assessment and Update Status Report on the Five-lined Skink *Eumeces fasciatus* (Carolinian Population and Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Population) in Canada. Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Ottawa. vii + 50 pp. [www.sara-registry.gc.ca/status/status\_e.cfm]). At ca. 1000 h on 7 March 2011 at Point Pelee National Park (41.93148°N, 82.51252°W; WGS 84) in Essex County, Ontario, Canada, a skink was unearthed by a backhoe 34 m ESE of the Visitor Centre in an open area of deciduous forest during an archaeological inspection before septic tank installation. The field crew present (G. Almasi, D. Dawdy, J. Goundry, M. Teal, D. Kipping, S. Hossain, and A. Miller) notified park resources staff. The lone adult male *P. fasciatus* (70 mm SVL, 150 mm TL) was found ca. 23 cm deep in loamy sand soil that was under ca. 10 cm of snow. Ground frost penetration was ca. 8–10 cm in the vicinity but soil appeared unfrozen at the spot where the skink was observed. No stumps, logs, or large roots were present but a cedar stump was about 2.4 m from the skink. There was no sign of obvious tunneling by the skink. Ambient conditions were sunny (temp: -5°C; wind: NE 7 km/h; RH: 79%). The specimen appeared in good condition but was torpid upon capture. Slight movements and partial eyelid opening occurred during handling and photographing the specimen and it remained lethargic for the first two days of holding indoors. The specimen became fully active after about 5 days and was maintained on a cricket diet until being released on 28 April in healthy condition after annual skink activity resumed. Skink hibernacula have not been observed in the park but in several previous years we observed single or small numbers of individuals on the first day of annual activity adjacent to skink-sized holes under woody debris in sandy soils within their home ranges. Similar observations were reported from Kansas

(Fitch 1954. Univ. Kansas Publ. Mus. Nat. Hist. 8:1–156). Skinks have also entered the Visitor Centre building during previous winters. Some literature has noted Five-lined Skinks hibernating alone, in pairs, or with small groups of other lizards, in or under logs, stumps, sawdust or debris piles, ground litter, mammal burrows, building foundations, under rocks, or within rock crevices (Conant 1951. Am. Midl. Nat. 20:1–200; Fitch 1954, *op. cit.*; Hamilton 1948. Copeia 1948:211; Harding 1997. Amphibians and Reptiles of the Great Lakes Region. Univ. Michigan Press, p. 231; Linsdale 1927. Copeia 1927:75–81; Neill 1948. Herpetologica 4:107–114) but few details have been published. Tihen (1937. Trans. Kansas Acad. Sci. 40:401–409) reported two *P. fasciatus* hibernating 2.5 m underground in Kansas. Point Pelee is a natural sandspit in Lake Erie so skinks must overwinter below the frost line but above the shallow and fluctuating water table where late winter–early spring flood mortality has occurred in communal snake hibernacula (T. Linke, unpubl. park records). Our note adds to the existing literature and provides the first report of overwintering conditions for the endangered Carolinian population of *P. fasciatus* in southwestern Ontario and for the northern portion of its range.

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**PLESTIODON FASCIATUS (Common Five-lined Skink). BIFURCATION.**

*Plestiodon fasciatus* is the only lizard species in Michigan known to occur outside of Tuscola County, and is relatively abundant throughout the Lower Peninsula (Harding 1997. Amphibians and Reptiles of the Great Lakes Region. University of Michigan Press, Ann Arbor. 378 pp.). On 11 July 2011 at 1000 h we observed an adult with a bifurcated (bifid) tail under a pine log in Northern Midland County (43.68073°N, 84.29604°W). The tail was bifurcated somewhat vertically at the posterior end, and appeared to have been lost and regrown at least once prior to the splitting event. The dorsal fork was longer than the ventral fork. A non-lethal tissue sample with accession number FTB2749 was collected under a permit to ADM from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment and deposited in the Burbrink genetic resources collection at College of Staten Island, Staten Island, New York.

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**PLESTIODON LATICEPS (Broad-headed Skink). HERBIVORY.**

*Plestiodon laticeps* is a common and widespread North American skink that, like most members of its genus, is generally regarded as a strict carnivore (Mount 1975. The Reptiles and Amphibians of Alabama. Auburn Univ. Agric. Exp. Sta., Auburn, Alabama. 347 pp.; Jensen et al. [eds.] 2008. Amphibians and Reptiles of Georgia. Univ. Georgia Press, Athens. 575 pp.). At 1400 h on 29 May 2011, I observed herbivory by a free-ranging adult male in a partially wooded section of my backyard, which is situated in a large-lot residential subdivision that supports a substantial skink population in Tallahassee, Leon Co., Florida, USA (30.48341°N, 84.18301°W; datum NAD83; elev. 40 m). Observations were made in light shade at an air temperature of 32°C. Five minutes after leaving a ripe strawberry and canned dog food in front of a