In any event, all of the localities considered reliable for the species are shown on the map (Figure 1). Aside from places mentioned in the preceding text, VMNH has three specimens of *latzelii* captured in pitfalls at Elm Hill State Game Management Area, Mecklenburg Co., Virginia, 15 March-22 April 1991. Eventually more material of the species will be collected, providing better knowledge of its range and possible confirmation for the present selection of a restricted type locality.

Acknowledgements

Appreciation is expressed to Laura Leibensperger, Department of Invertebrates, Museum of Comparative Zoology, for her invaluable aid in providing documentation from MCZ records; to Dr. Jonathan Coddington for access to the Crabill collection of centipeds now under his charge; and Dr. Rowland M. Shelley for reviewing an early draft of this paper in manuscript.

Literature Cited

Bollman, C. H. 1887. Descriptions of fourteen new species of North American myriapods. Proceedings of the United States National Museum 10: 617-627.

Bollman, C. H. 1888. Notes upon some myriapods belonging to the U. S. National Museum. Proceedings of the United States National Museum 11: 343-350.

Chamberlin, R. V. 1925. The genera *Lithobius*, *Neolithobius*, *Gonibius*, and *Zinapolys* in America north of Mexico. Bulletin of the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy at Harvard College 52(8): 441-504.

Hoffman, R. L. 1994. The occurrence of *Hemiscolopendra punctiventris* (Newport), an ecophilous centiped, in Virginia (Chilopoda: Scolopendromorpha). Banisteria 4: 33-34.

Meinert, F. 1885. Myriapoda Musei Cantabrigensis. Part 1. Chilopoda. Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society 21: 161-233.

Shelley, R. M. 1981. Revision of the milliped genus *Sigmoria*. Memoirs of the American Entomological Society 33: 1-140.

Banisteria, Number 6, 1995

Abnormal Coloration in a Common Snapping Turtle (*Chelydra serpentina serpentina*) from Virginia

Joseph C. Mitchell
Department of Biology and School of Continuing Studies
University of Richmond
Richmond, Virginia 23173

Abnormally colored and patterned reptiles are occasionally discovered in wild populations. These individuals have received considerable attention and descriptions of them often appear in the herpetological literature (Hensley, 1959; Dyrkacz, 1981). Abnormal colors range from complete albinism to complete melanism. Albinism is a congenital decrease or absence of melanin in the skin, eyes, and mucosa resulting

apparently from a genetic defect in melanin metabolism, whereas melanism is an unusual darkening of normal pigmentation due to increased melanin production (Bechtel, 1995). Albinistic pintos possess small, scattered areas of normal pigment but the eyes lack pigment (Dyrkacz, 1981). Leucistic reptiles have no functional melanophores, xanthophores, very few iridophores, and the eye is usually normally pigmented (Dyrkacz, 1981; Bechtel, 1995). Very few records of such abnormalities have been published for reptiles in Virginia. Mitchell (1994b) listed all known albinistic and melanistic snakes and described a xanthic northern water snake (*Nerodia sipedon sipedon*) from Virginia. Mitchell (1994a) reported no instances of abnormally pigmented turtles or lizards from the state.

On 28 June 1991 a common snapping turtle (*Chelydra serpentina serpentina*) lacking most of the normal dark pigmentation was discovered in Great Neck Lake, Virginia Beach, Virginia by M. Woodhouse. The turtle was a young female and measured 217 mm straightline carapace length, 165 mm plastron length, and 2365 g body mass at capture. The number of carapacial annuli indicated an age of 5-6 years. The plastron length exceeded that for the smallest known mature female (155 mm) from Virginia (Mitchell, 1994a), suggesting that she was reproductively mature.

Normal skin coloration in snapping turtles in Virginia varies from brown to black and shell color is typically brown with black streaks (Mitchell, 1994a). The skin on all soft parts of the body of this specimen was pink, except for the dorsum of the head, which was partially covered with light brown pigment. The lateral portions of the head and the iris of the eye were cream in color. The pupil was normally pigmented. The plastron was light tan with large areas of cream along all scute margins, and the carapace was a light brownish-cream with distinct black borders along the margins of all carapacial scutes. This specimen may thus be categorized as an albinistic pinto but with normally pigmented eyes.

The turtle remained on display at the Virginia Marine Science Museum from its capture in 1991 to late 1994. It shared the coastal river aquarium with two normally pigmented adults, all of which interacted and behaved similarily. Its deposition is unknown.

This is the first record of a partially albinistic *C. serpentina* from Virginia (Mitchell, 1994a). Dyrkacz (1981) reported albinistic snapping turtles from Florida, Illinois, Kentucky, Ohio, and Ontario, Canada. A completely albinistic adult with pink eyes from an unknown location is illustrated in color in Bechtel (1995).

Acknowledgments

I thank Thomas D. Pitchford, formerly of the Marine Science Museum in Virginia Beach, for bringing this turtle to my attention and for taking the measurements.

Literature Cited

Bechtel, H. B. 1995. Reptile and amphibian variants, colors, patterns, and scales. Krieger Publishing Company, Malabar, FL. 206 pp.

Dyrkacz, S. 1981. Recent instances of albinism in North American amphibians and reptiles. Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles, Herpetological Circular 11:1-31.

Hensley, M. 1959. Albinism in North American amphibians and reptiles. Publications of the Museum of Michigan State University, Biological Series 1:133-159.

Mitchell, J.C. 1994a. The Reptiles of Virginia. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C., 352 pp.

Mitchell, J. C. 1994b. An unusually colored northern water snake (*Nerodia sipedon sipedon*) from Giles County, Virginia. Banisteria 4:32-33.