

that 39 of 9,987 recently metamorphosed *A. c. blanchardi* froglets from Illinois had missing limbs and digits and deformed or extra limbs, digits, or mouthparts. The North American Reporting Center for Amphibian Malformations website (<http://frogweb.nbio.gov/narcam/>) reports four species of ranids and an American toad (*Bufo americanus*) with multiple legs but none with ectromelia (missing limbs). No reports concern tadpoles. Here we report the first documented observation of ectromelia in a metamorphic *A. crepitans crepitans*.

On 29 July 2003, we captured a 30 mm total length *Acris c. crepitans* tadpole in a tire rut pool in a clearcut on Fort Lee (U.S. Army), Prince George County, Virginia (UTM 4126859 N, 18s 293184 E, NAD 83). Both of the anterior limbs were fully formed with complete development of both hands and digits. Both rear limbs were absent, with only small, fleshy stumps at the point of emergence from the body (Fig. 1). There was no evidence of predation or injury. The dark areas on the stumps are melanophores; there is no bone tissue exposed. We interpret this observation as an instance of congenital bilateral ectromelia. Twenty other *A. crepitans* tadpoles with rear legs only were also captured at this site, as were two metamorphs with

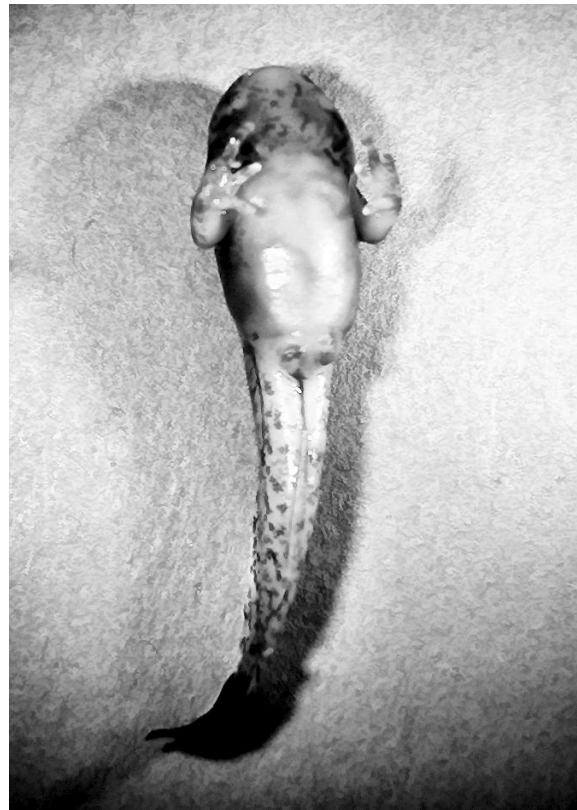


Fig. 1. *Acris c. crepitans* tadpole from Virginia with bilateral ectromelia.

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**BILATERAL ECTROMELIA IN A NORTHERN CRICKET FROG (*ACRIS CREPITANS CREPITANS*) METAMORPH FROM VIRGINIA**—Most malformations in frogs have been reported for metamorphs or juveniles (e.g., Ouellet et al., 1997; Meteyer, 2000; Meteyer et al., 2000). Deformities in tadpoles are occasionally reported based on experimental work or from contaminated environments (Rowe et al., 1998). In the genus *Acris*, polydactyly in *A. gryllus* was reported from Florida by Christman (1970) and malformations consisting of a missing eye and subcutaneous bloating derived from a herniated small intestine were described for *A. c. blanchardi* in Missouri by Smith & Powell (1983). Gray (2001) noted

all four limbs and a tail. None of these larvae showed signs of malformations. No obvious environmental or military training factor contributed to this malformation. All tadpoles and metamorphic frogs that are captured should be examined closely for abnormalities because they may represent unique cases or indications of more severe problems.

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