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DISTRIBUTION OF THE SPECIES *PHRYNOSOMA PLATYRHINOS* IN UTAH

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Key words: Phrynosoma, Utah, species distribution.

A study of the genus *Phrynosoma* by Reeve (1952) places *Phrynosoma platyrhinos platyrhinos* in the Uinta Basin in northeastern Utah. His accompanying range map (Reeve 1952: fig. 3) extends the range of this species from the Great Basin of Utah east across the central highlands into the upper Colorado River Basin of northeastern Utah. *Phrynosoma platyrhinos* is a desert species ranging primarily in the Great Basin and does not occur in the mountains and high plateaus of central Utah. Reeve lists 5 specimens from the upper Colorado River Basin. These specimens are in the Brigham Young University (BYU) herpetological collection: 2 are from Uintah County (25 mi SE of Jensen [BYU 2637] and 3 mi E of Ouray [BYU 345]), and 3 are from Carbon County (Price [BYU 1029, 1030, 8033]).

The 2 from Uintah County and a 3rd specimen (BYU 647) are *P. platyrhinos* but are best placed in the subspecies *P. p. calidiarum*. Figure 1 indicates my present concept of the distribution of *P. platyrhinos* in Utah, based on examination of the now available specimens in the BYU herpetological collection. I have examined the 3 specimens listed by Reeve (1952) for Carbon County (BYU 8033, 1029, 1030, collected by S. Flowers). They are typical examples of *Phrynosoma hernandesi* (Zamudio et al. 1997). Six BYU specimens from Carbon County (at or near Price) are also *P. hernandesi*, as are 18 specimens from eastern Emery County. This suggests that *P. platyrhinos* has not succeeded in crossing the high plateaus north of the Wahweep depression (north from Crossing of the Fathers) nor the Colorado River in eastern Kane County. Apparently, Reeve assumed, based on his distribution map, that those *Phrynosoma*

occurring in the eastern foothills of the central highlands would be *P. platyrhinos*.

Pianka (1991: map 517.1) provides a near duplication of the range map of Reeve (1952), and thus includes the incorrect distribution and misidentified specimens listed by Reeve for Carbon County, Utah.

Those previously mentioned specimens collected near Jensen were taken at Willow Creek, SE of Ouray (BYU 345), and at Deadman's

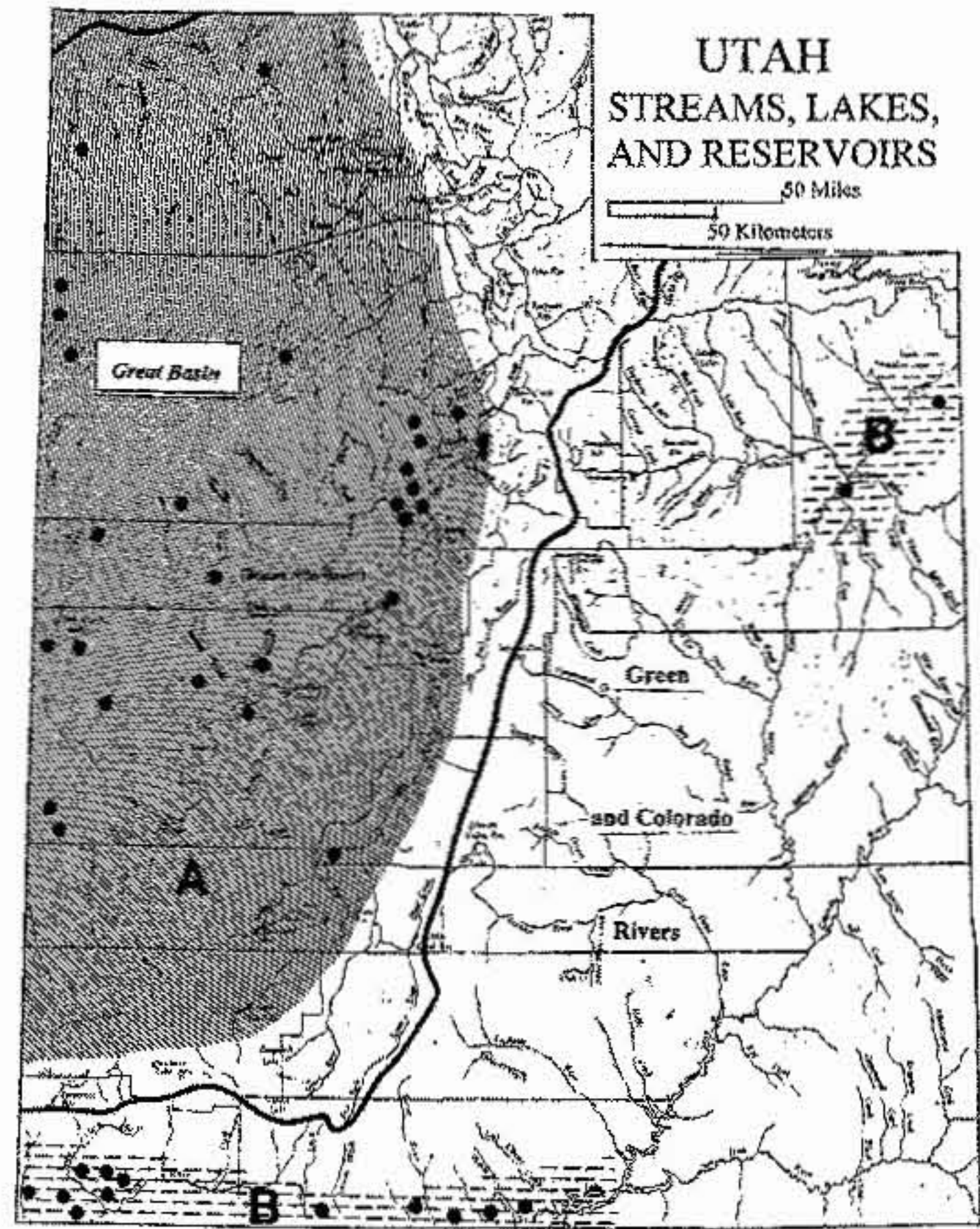


Fig 1. Distribution of *Phrynosoma platyrhinos* in Utah, based on specimens in the BYU herpetological collection: A, *P. p. platyrhinos*; B, *P. p. calidiarum*. Map taken from Greer et al. (1981).

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Flat, 25 mi SE of Jensen (BYU 2637). Since the Yampa and White rivers enter the Green River not far from the areas where the specimens were collected, I asked Rosanne Humphrey and Hobart Smith, both at the University of Colorado, for any *P. platyrhinos* locality records for western Colorado. They replied that no records are presently available in the University of Colorado Museum. Thus, the occurrence of *P. p. calidiarum* in Uintah County, with no locality records for Grand County and none for San Juan County north of the San Juan River, leaves the population in Uintah County as an isolated and disjunct population. Stebbins (1985: map 98) extends *P. p. calidiarum* into southern San Juan County, but gives no indication of its presence north of the San Juan River. Hardy (1938) lists only *P. hernandesi* for Carbon County, Utah.

A series of *Phrynosoma p. calidiarum* extending in southwestern Utah east from Kanab, Kane County, to the Colorado River provides a continuous range extension into the deserts of southern Utah. These locality records (BYU 14975, 7 mi E of Kanab; BYU 11216–11220, 11383, 14196, approx 39 mi E of Kanab; BYU 12906, Adairville; BYU 11299–11300, East Clark Bench, 8 mi E of Adairville; and BYU

14888–14893, 16663–16665, 18922, Crossing of the Fathers) indicate a substantial population in the valleys between the Vermilion Cliffs and the Grand Canyon Plateau. However, there are no locality records for *P. platyrhinos* east of the Colorado River in either San Juan or Grand counties.

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