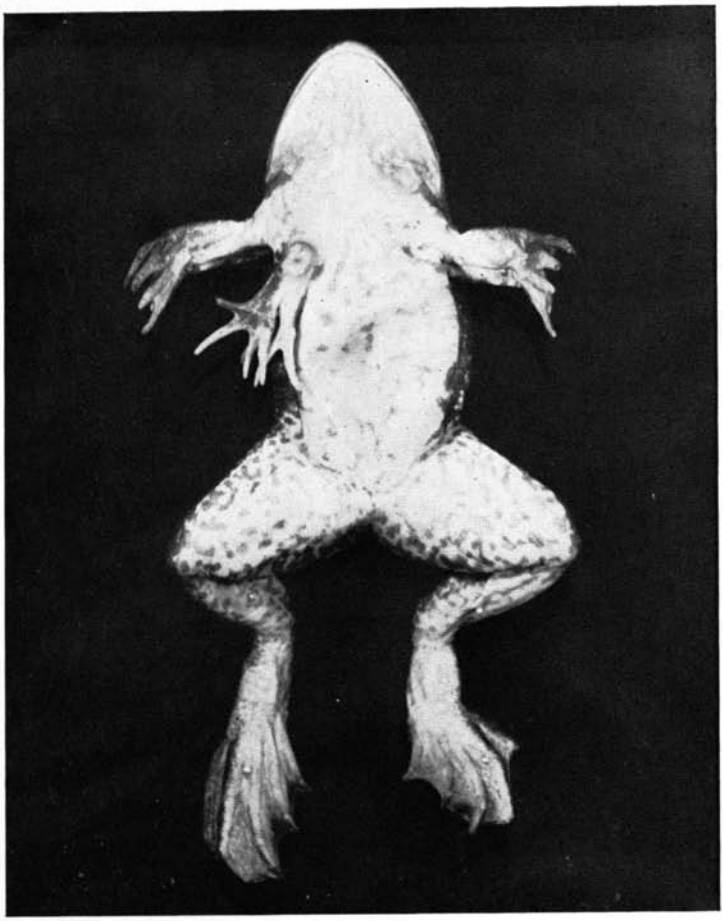
FIGURE 1.



THE ANATOMY OF AN ANOMALOUS THORACIC REGION IN RANA CATESBIANA

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Some types of anomalies among the Amphibia are quite common, but the kind herein described is rare. A study of the literature on Anuran anomalies revealed only mere mentions of several types, but practically no anatomical studies have been made.

The specimen was a six-legged half-grown female bull frog weighing 450 gms. It is shown in Fig. 1. The lengths of the small fused limbs projecting from the sternum were 8 cm. The humeri emerged perpendicularly from the thorax and were 3 cm. in length. The remaining portions of the limbs were 5 cm. in length and were directed posteriorly. From observations, this deformity apparently did not interfere with its normal activities.

Dissection of the musculature revealed a total absence of the two long, left posterior slips of the pectoralis which originate from the linea alba. The origins of the remaining parts of the left pectoralis were very weak with an abundance of fasciae. No muscle could be found in the deformed limbs, although a few thin strips of fasciae simulating muscles in their correct positions were observed.

The principal vein to the deformed limbs came from a branch of the great cutaneous near the origin of the subclavian vein. A branch from the subclavian artery provided the arterial supply.

The osteological modifications were very pronounced. The distally and proximally fused humeri were attached by fasciae to the sternal cartilage as shown in Fig. 2. The bifurcated radio-ulnae were attached at right angles to the humeri. The left radio-ulna was twisted to the right. All the phalanges of the digits were practically normal, except that digit 2 of the right hand was much shorter. Most of the carpal bones were fused beyond individual recognition.

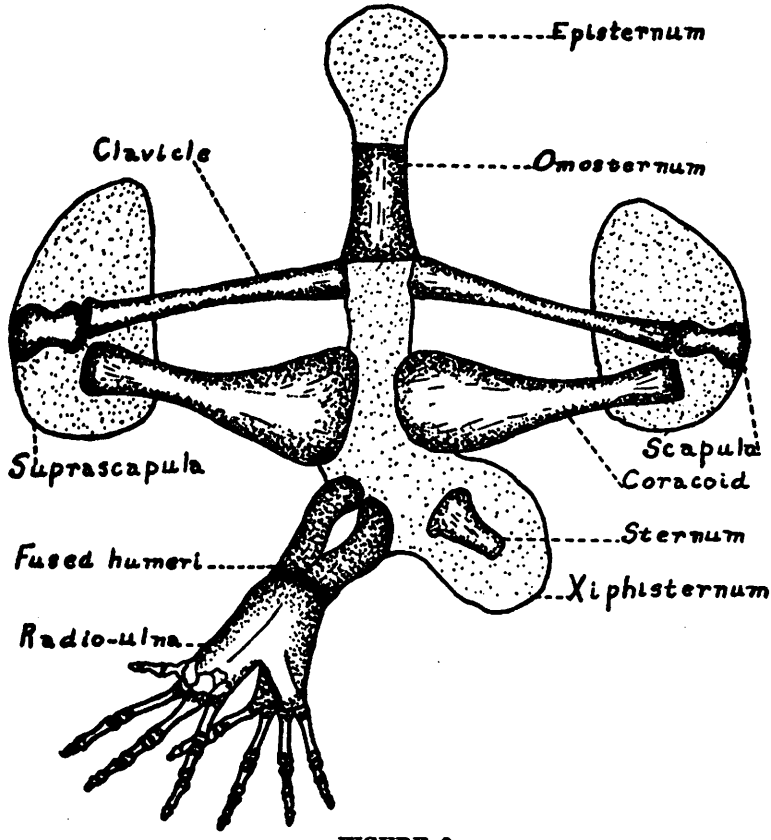
Episternum
Clavicle
Omosternum
Suprascapula
Scapula
Coracoid
Sternum
Fused humeri
Xiphisternum
Radio-ulna

FIGURE 2.