AGGREGATIONAL PHENOMENA IN SCAPHIOPUS HURTERII TADPOLES

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During April and May 1945 tadpoles of the savannah spadefoot were observed in several pools east of Norman, Oklahoma. In one pool, social aggregation in early metamorphosis as described elsewhere (Bragg 1944) occurred. In another pool it did not. Tadpoles sometimes formed feeding aggregations, some social, others asocial. Schooling was also observed among some, whether the early metamorphic aggregation became manifested later or not. It is concluded that the expression of social aggregational phenomena in the tadpoles of this species is under environmental control, since in some environmental situations it occurred whereas in others it did not. Nothing is yet known as to what environmental stimuli evoked this reaction. Details are given elsewhere (Bragg 1945).

LITERATURE CITED

- Bragg, A. N. 1944. Breeding habits, eggs, and tadpoles of Scaphiopus hurteris. Copeia 1944 (4): 230-241.
- Bragg, A. N. 1945. Breeding and tadpole behavior in Scaphiopus hurterli near Norman, Oklahoma, Spring, 1945. Wasmann Collector 6: 69-78.