

LEPOMIS MARGINATUS (HOLBROOK) IN OKLAHOMA*

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During the past two years 16 previously unreported species, including *Lepomis marginatus*, have been discovered in Oklahomas' fish fauna: Moore and Poole, (5); Paden, (7); Moore, (3); Moore and Cross, (4). The latter paper, now in press, erroneously included *Perca flavescens* (Mitchill) as a first record, mentioning, among others, the same specimen previously reported by Ortenburger and Hubbs (6).

From studies now in progress it is evident that several more fishes, including some new species and subspecies, are to be reported. The abbreviation O.A.M. is the Museum of Zoology, Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College.

Twenty-six specimens (20-65mm) from 5 separate collections (O.A.M. Numbers 288, 3077, 3094, 3096, 3097) representing 3 different localities in the Mountain Fork River System of McCurtain County, Oklahoma, have been collected. These localities with the collectors' names and collection dates are as follows: roadside swamp (5) 10 miles east of Broken Bow, class of W. H. Irwin, April 19, 1947 and Moore and Gordon, June 4, 1947; swamp 3 miles south of Eagletown, Moore and Cross, June 2, 1948 and Moore *et al* August 20, 1948; Mountain Fork River near its mouth, Rigney and Moore, August 20-23, 1948. There is a single specimen deposited in the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology and the remainder are placed in O.A.M.

Three specimens (48-67 mm), placed in the Tulsa University Collections, were taken by Dr. A. P. Blair in Rock Creek, a tributary of Little River, on Highway 70 about 16 miles east of Broken Bow, McCurtain County, June 29, 1949. These specimens, according to Dr. Blair, were taken from rather fast water in contrast to the habitat from which our specimens were taken.

Although *L. marginatus* superficially resembles *L. megalotis* (Rafinesque) and has been considered a subspecies (1) or placed in the synonymy (2) of the latter, the two remain distinctly different (Table I) in Oklahoma. In the swamp collections *marginatus* and *megalotis* were represented in an approximate ratio of 1:1.

TABLE I
A Comparison of Oklahoma *Lepomis marginatus* and *L. megalotis*

	<i>marginatus</i>	<i>megalotis</i>
Scales		
cheek	4 rows (rarely 3 or 5)	6 rows (rarely 5 or 7)
sides	adults with conspicuous spot of uniform intensity on each scale	spots not of uniform intensity
Pectoral fin rays	12-12 (sometimes 12-13; rarely 13-13)	14-14 (sometimes 13 on either side)
Anal base	convex	straighter
Body contour	more rounded	tapering more sharply toward caudal peduncle

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The presence of *Lepomis marginatus* with *Lepomis symmetricus* (4), *Fundulus dispar*, *Centrarchus macropterus*, *Elassoma zonatum* (5), reflects the influence of the coastal plains on the fish fauna of southern McCurtain County.

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