

1-1-2013

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Recommended Citation

Doosey, Michael H. (2013) "Rediscovery of a Lost Paratype of the Boulder Darter, *Etheostoma wapiti*," *Southeastern Fishes Council Proceedings*: No. 54.

Available at: <https://trace.tennessee.edu/sfcproceedings/vol1/iss54/5>

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Rediscovery of a Lost Paratype of the Boulder Darter, *Etheostoma wapiti*

Rediscovery of a Lost Paratype of the Boulder Darter, *Etheostoma wapiti*

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Etheostoma wapiti Etnier and Williams, Boulder Darter, is an endemic of the Elk River and Shoal Creek (Tennessee River basin) in south central Tennessee and northwestern Alabama. It is protected as Federally Endangered (Biggins, 1988), Endangered in Tennessee (Withers, 2009), and is a species of Highest Conservation Concern in Alabama (Shute, 2004). At the time of its description only 55 specimens were known (Etnier and Williams, 1989), and it is estimated that there are presently about 80 wild-caught specimens cataloged in natural history collections (Boschung and Mayden, 2004). Etnier and Williams (1989) designated 48 specimens in 16 lots as paratypes. Two of the paratype lots are cataloged in the Royal D. Suttkus Fish Collection at the Tulane University Museum of Natural History (TU). However, it was reported in the most recent account of the TU type specimens that TU 30271 was missing (Bart and Taylor, 1993). Consequently, this paratype lot was excluded from the printed *Catalog of Fishes* (Eschmeyer, 1998) and the online version (Eschmeyer, 2012). The other lot of paratypes at Tulane, TU 148010, has two specimens and was accounted for by Bart and Taylor (1993).

During ongoing recuration at TU, the lost paratype TU 30271 was rediscovered. The single specimen is 28.37 mm SL and its sex is undetermined. R.D. Suttkus, J.S. Ramsey, and M.D. Dahlberg collected this specimen in 1963, from the Elk River at mile 89.7, Fayetteville, Lincoln County, Tennessee. This locality is at the known upstream limit of *E. wapiti* in the Tennessee River

basin (Etnier and Williams, 1989; Etnier and Starnes, 1993). The condition of the specimen is relatively poor as it is soft and pigmentation of the fins is lacking. A note written on the original catalog label stated that the dorsal fin margin had orange pigment. This anecdotal note is somewhat contradictory to the description by Etnier and Williams (1989) that the submarginal band is pale or yellowish. The original TU label tentatively identified the specimen as *Etheostoma camurum* (Cope) and later the identification was changed to *Etheostoma* sp. David A. Etnier examined the specimen and recognized that it was a new species of the *Etheostoma maculatum* Kirkland species group. After publication of the description of *E. wapiti* and designation of TU 30271 as a paratype, it appears that the lot remained shelved with approximately 220 other lots identified as "*Etheostoma* sp." rather than being moved to the separate type room at TU.

Justin G. Mann brought my attention to the unidentified lots of darters at TU and helped in locating and recurating the specimen. I thank Henry L. Bart, Jr. for permission to publish this correspondence.

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