

m away. It is possible that the *T. carolina* had been gravid and its nest was recently predated, as this habitat is also commonly used by turtles for nesting.

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**TERRAPENE CAROLINA CAROLINA (Eastern Box Turtle).** **MAXIMUM ELEVATION.** *Terrapene carolina carolina* is a small terrestrial turtle of mesic woodlands in the eastern United States (Dodd 2001. North American Box Turtles: A Natural History. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman. 231 pp.; Buhlmann et al 2008. Turtles of the Southeast. University of Georgia Press, Athens. 252 pp.). This species typically occurs between sea level and 1220 m in elevation, becoming more infrequent with increasing elevation, particularly in the northern portion of its range (Dodd 2001, *op. cit.*). The Eastern Box Turtle is considered extremely rare, if it occurs at all, in high elevation, montane conifer forests of the southern Appalachians (Huheey and Stupka 1967. Amphibians and Reptiles of Great Smoky Mountains National Park. University of Tennessee Press, Knoxville. 98 pp.).

On 14 May 2015, we observed a female *T. c. carolina* basking in a small opening with dead fern cover in a Fraser Fir (*Abies fraseri*) dominated stand with Red Spruce (*Picea rubens*). The turtle was located on Roan High Bluff in the Roan Mountain Highlands, Mitchell Co., North Carolina at an elevation of 1875 m (36.09427°N, 82.14146°W; WGS 84). The turtle's shell was very worn, which may indicate an individual  $\geq 20$  years. The observation was located 4.08 km behind a gated road that leads from Carver's Gap on the Tennessee-North Carolina border. The gate is closed to public vehicle access from late October/November through late May. When the observation occurred, the gated road had not been open to the public that season.

Within the southern Appalachians, there are a few high-elevation observations for *T. carolina*. In North Carolina, the highest elevation record was 1506 m of a road-killed turtle on the Blue Ridge Parkway at Buck Spring Gap in Transylvania Co., approximately 1.38 road km from the Pisgah Inn (A. Tutterow, Carolina Herp Atlas, pers. comm.). The forest type surrounding the observation site was northern hardwood forest. In Tennessee, the highest elevation record is 1663 m along a road surrounded by northern hardwood forest near the summit of Haw Knob Mountain in the Unicoi Mountains on state line between Monroe Co., Tennessee and Graham Co., North Carolina (Chan et al. 2016. Herpetol. Rev. 47:129). Another notable record was taken from Mt. Mitchell at 2007 m from the visitor parking lot in the state park (Palmer and Braswell 1995. Reptiles of North Carolina. University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill. 412 pp.). However, this record is considered suspect as the individual turtle might have been a released pet (Palmer and Braswell 1995, *op. cit.*).

We believe this record is the first legitimate record of *T. carolina* from a high-elevation spruce-fir forest in the region. Unlike the record from Mt. Mitchell, we do not believe this was a released individual owing to the distance from the nearest road and the time of year the observation occurred. This record is 212 m higher than the Tennessee record and 369 m higher than the previous North Carolina record. Additionally, this record is 129 m higher than the summit of Mount Rogers, the tallest peak in Virginia at 1746 m elev., making it the highest elevation record in the southern Appalachians.

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**TERRAPENE CAROLINA MAJOR (Gulf Coast Box Turtle).** **DIET.** American box turtles in the genus *Terrapene* are known to consume a wide variety of invertebrate prey including many types of arthropods (Dodd 2001. North American Box Turtles A Natural History. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman. 231 pp.; Ernst and Lovich 2009. Turtles of the United States and Canada. Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, Maryland. 840 pp.). The only known diet item in the order Decapoda are crayfish, and there are apparently no published records of marine invertebrates in the box turtle diet. This note documents *T. carolina major* consuming at least two species of tidal marsh crabs.

On 17 May 2015 at approximately 1730 h, LM, Benny McCoy, and Garrett McCoy encountered a fiddler crab (*Uca*; most likely the Gulf Mud Fiddler [*Uca longisignalis*]) migration crossing



FIG. 1. Gulf Coast Box Turtle (*Terrapene carolina major*) eating a marsh crab belonging to the family Grapsidae.



FIG. 2. Gulf Coast Box turtle (*Terrapene carolina major*) consuming captured fiddler crab, *Uca* sp.