BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH
AND
BIBLIOGRAPHY OF C. Kenneth Dodd, Jr.

C. Kenneth Dodd, Jr.
Gainesville, Florida

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The first number of the SMITHSONIAN HERPETOLOGICAL INFORMATION SERVICE series appeared in 1968. SHIS number 1 was a list of herpetological publications arising from within or through the Smithsonian Institution and its collections entity, the United States National Museum (USNM). The latter exists now as little more than the occasional title for the registration activities of the National Museum of Natural History. No. 1 was prepared and printed by J. A. Peters, then Curator-in-Charge of the Division of Amphibians & Reptiles. The availability of a NASA translation service and assorted indices encouraged him to continue the series and distribute these items on an irregular schedule.

The series continues under that tradition. Specifically, the SHIS series distributes translations, bibliographies, indices, and similar items judged useful to individuals interested in the biology of amphibians and reptiles, and unlikely to be published in the normal technical journals. We wish to encourage individuals to share their bibliographies, translations, etc. with other herpetologists through the SHIS series. If you have such an item, please contact George Zug [zugg @ si.edu] for its consideration for distribution through the SHIS series.

Our increasingly digital world is changing the manner of our access to research literature and that is now true for SHIS publications. They are distributed now as pdf documents through two Smithsonian outlets:

**Biodiversity Heritage Library.** www.biodiversitylibrary.org/bibliography/15728
All numbers from 1 to 131 [1968-2001] available in BHL.

**Division’s Website.** vertebrates.si.edu/herps/herps_NMNH_herppubs/herps_herps.html
Numbers 84 to 149 available as pdfs in the herpetological publications section of the website.

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*Cover Image: Amplexing Lithobates clamitans* from
Dodd 2013 *Frogs of the United States and Canada*, fig. 5.
Illustrator – Camila Pizano
Biographical Sketch *

My parents, Clifford Kenneth and Mary Elizabeth Kelly, met while they worked for the U.S. Public Health Service in Washington, D.C. Dad was transferred to Seattle, Washington, in 1948 and mom soon followed; they were married in January 1949, but did not take their honeymoon until two months later, in Victoria, British Columbia. Since I was born nine months later, I suppose I am part Canadian. I was actually born in San Diego, California, on 16 November 1949. Dad and mom had traveled down the Pacific Coast as part of their job evaluating hospitals, and I arrived by the time they were in southern California. Perhaps this is when I became imprinted on travelling. Although they lived in La Jolla and Alhambra for a short period of time, they moved back across country when I was very young to Alexandria, Virginia where I grew up. At that time, there were fields, farms and forests in the area, and I spent a great deal of time roaming the woods looking for frogs, box turtles, and snakes. My parents encouraged these excursions, and I often kept various reptiles for periods of time.

After attending parochial school in Annandale, Virginia, I was accepted into St. Johns College High School in Washington, a college prep military school operated by the Christian Brothers. Because of the long distances between home and school, there was little time for other activities, especially my local outdoor interests. The academic curriculum was intense and regimented; students were expected to excel and go on to good colleges. As soon as I took biology, I knew what I wanted to do in life—study animals. I never had a desire for a medical career, although I was offered that opportunity later. I eventually received the biology science medal after taking a rigorous test at the end of the school year. Zoology made so much sense and fascinated me. It was during the latter half of high school that I became interested in caves and cave biology. I joined several caving organizations, and drove long hours on weekends to assist in cave surveying, arriving home just in time to attend to St. John’s 3-4 hours of homework per night. It was during this time that I met biospeleologists John Holsinger, John Cooper and others who ventured into caves for more than recreation. They had a very important influence on my choice of a university, as both had attended the University of Kentucky.

Although I applied to several southeastern schools (I always have hated cold weather), I opted for UK, hopefully to be involved with its Institute of Speleology. In the pre-internet days, the only way to evaluate departments was to read the catalogues and various university guidebooks. Soon after arriving at UK, I found that the Institute existed only on paper, as Thomas Barr, the principal faculty member, no longer did much caving and the young, enthusiastic grad students had moved on. I still liked the school and its field orientation. Roger Barbour taught several of the field courses, including herpetology. Roger was a great field naturalist, but neither well organized nor a good lecturer. He could go in the field and talk about everything that lived, but he could not put together a coherent lecture to save his life. It was still an exciting time (beyond the Vietnam protests), however, since Roger was assembling his many field guides, and we were privileged to have available a wealth of specimens to examine and compare. Roger emphasized characters rather than simple recognition: what made this species not that species? Why was this a plethodontid? What do the teeth of this species tell you about its diet? Roger also emphasized correct spelling; if it was

*See Endnote on final SHIS page
spelled wrong, it was marked wrong. I think I got a “B” in herpetology because I made too many spelling errors on lab practicals! I became extremely interested in salamanders at UK, and from then on, I wanted to be an academic/research herpetologist.

There was never any doubt about going to grad school, but I wanted a change of pace. I had travelled through the desert in my pickup truck in 1969, and I thought it would be a great place to live. I was accepted into the M.S. program at Arizona State University as a non-thesis student. The reason was simple: I was afraid that the Vietnam draft would pull me out of school in the middle of my research. I knew I had one year to complete my course work if I was enrolled, and the only way I could do that was by doing a non-thesis program. As it turned out, the draft ended just as I was nearing graduation. I therefore decided to graduate rather than spending another year at ASU. By that time, I had already been accepted at Clemson to work with Butch Brodie on a PhD. Not a hard decision. I loved my time at ASU, however. I took a course from Don Tinkle (then Maytag Professor for 1 year) that opened up an entirely new way of thinking to me. Jack Fouquette was on my committee, and three herp grad students (Laurie Vitt, Justin Congdon, Art Hulse) and my officemate (ichthyologist Bob Naiman) were generous in sharing their knowledge to someone clearly not in their league. I remember some crazy long trips road cruising with Laurie, driving over half the state in one night in his van. He would stop on a dime to catch some lizard or snake. It was one of those vans that had no extended hood, and as the brakes screeched, it felt like the van would stand on its front end. The straight-down front was good for seeing the road, though.

I had continued my fascination with salamanders, and after spending many hours in the ASU library, I decided to apply to Dave Wake at Berkeley, Butch Brodie at Clemson, and Ron Brandon at Southern Illinois for my PhD. Wake rebuffed me, but Butch seemed enthusiastic. I first met him in a campground near Tucson one Saturday morning. He walked out in striped too-short long pants, a large brimmed hat (like “Hoss” used to wear on Bonanza), and threw me a beer saying “I’m Brodie.” I knew it was going to be an adventure. So I moved to Clemson knowing nothing of the school. Although a long story for all involved, let’s just say it was a roller coaster for me and Butch, Judy Johnson, John Hensel, Henry Mushinsky and Paul Cupp, who made up the herp contingent. A narrow-minded administration forced Butch to move on, but I was allowed to finish my dissertation by December 1974, a record 2.5 years. I was fortunate in that I worked on Neotropical salamander antipredator behavior in both field (in Costa Rica, Guatemala, and Mexico) and laboratory situations, a topic very poorly known at that time. I would have liked to extend my research, but Butch’s departure necessitated a quick finish since his new position at Adelphi University did not have a PhD program. I realized I needed more experience, but life sometimes throws obstacles to even well thought out plans. I was fortunate to land a year’s teaching position at Mississippi State University to replace a faculty member on sabbatical leave, thanks to Ronn Altig. Being able to interact with Ronn was priceless because of his vast knowledge about frogs as well as his general approach to life (let’s just say, unconventional!).

While at MSU, I met Glenn Clemmer who was doing much fieldwork on fishes. I tagged along on collecting trips, learning about river ecology and seeing some great habitats. Some, such as the Tombigbee River, no longer exist, as they were destroyed by the “Big Ditch,” the Tenn-Tom Waterway, an economic and environmental disaster. After leaving MSU, I went back to Virginia to
look for jobs, but they were very scarce. One day I received a call from Jim Williams, a friend of Glenn’s, who offered me a job in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Office of Endangered Species in Washington. They needed a temporary (30-day) herpetologist to finish writing the Red Hills Salamander’s final listing package. Could I do that? Why not. What started as a 30-day temporary appointment turned into a 30 year career in the Department of Interior. It was an exciting place to work, surely at the ground floor of conservation biology when the discipline did not exist as such. The questions we wrestled with every day were those familiar to today’s conservation biologists, although we had very little research to guide our actions. How is status determined? What constitutes critical habitat? What about genetics? How does landscape ecology fit into protection? Single large or many small preserves? Island biogeography. PVAs. We also had to understand the law, since our actions, though biologically based, had to be made in a legal framework. This distinction was often difficult for our academic colleagues to understand. It was also the time of the Snail Darter, as well as controversies concerning wolves, kangaroos, and many other taxa. My responsibilities included assessments of herpetofaunal status worldwide, and preparing listing documents as necessary. Ultimately, I was able to add 40 species under federal protection. I was the sole herpetologist for most of my 8 years in OES, and there were many famous battles: sea turtle farming (vs. Cayman Turtle Farm and Purina), the Illinois Mud Turtle (vs Monsanto and Iowa-Illinois Gas and Electric), the Desert Tortoise (vs Washington County, Utah, Cattleman’s Association), the Houston Toad and Coachella Valley Fringe-toed Lizard (vs real estate interests), and of course Pennsylvania Timber Rattlesnakes. In addition, I proposed the first Critical Habitats for nesting sea turtles, the Hawksbill and Leatherback in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. I was also able to play a pivotal role in the establishment of Green Cay National Wildlife Refuge (for the St. Croix Ground Lizard) and Sandy Point NWR (for nesting Leatherback Sea Turtles). I learned a great deal, and it was a priceless experience, but the continuous stress took its toll. It was during this time, however, that I formed my association with the USNM, as it involved countless trips to use the wonderful herpetological library and research facilities. I am deeply indebted to George Zug, Ron Heyer, and Bruce Bury for access to the Division and accepting me into their group. As the Reagan administration was not favorable to conservation, attempts to break up OES in Washington led me to request a transfer to the FWS Research Division, a transfer that was not universally welcoming. I was told when I arrived in Gainesville in October 1984 that it was hoped I’d fail in this position (no one had gone back to research after an 8 year stint in administration); nothing personal, of course, just the way the transfer was handled. I guess that made an impression and fueled my work ethic.

I immediately set about a research project, thanks to Dick Franz’ invitation to work on the Ordway-Swisher Biological Station operated by the University of Florida. I focused on the herpetofaunal community that used a temporary pond in the imperiled longleaf pine sandhills, about which little was known. For five years, this formed the basis of research activities, punctuated with additional sampling throughout the station and tracking various taxa using telemetry. The research begun here formed the basis for an increasing interest in the art and science of sampling, as well as questions concerning demography, long-term studies, the life histories of rare and declining species, and how human land use, both historical and current, affects persistence, distribution and activity patterns. In subsequent research on Red Hills Salamanders, Striped Newts, Flattened Musk Turtles, Loggerhead Sea Turtles and Florida Box Turtles, I expanded my interests to population modeling (thanks to
Madan Oli), genetics, emerging diseases, and other subjects. I have been fortunate to work with outstanding students, collaborators, and field assistants, such as Marian Griffey (my wife), Dick Franz, Bert Charest, Jim Austin, George Zug, Madan, Lora Smith, Kevin Smith, Steve Johnson, Yurii Kornilev, Jamie Barichivich, Chuck Knapp and others too numerous to name. I have learned that collaboration is essential to a scientific career, as there is just too damn much for any one person to know or do in one lifetime.

Moving to Gainesville allowed me another opportunity I had always wanted – to have graduate students. I was appointed as a Courtesy Associate Professor in the Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation at the University of Florida in 1986, then to the Graduate Faculty in 1991. Although this was (and is, for > 30 years now) a volunteer position, I have supervised 3 PhD and 8 M.S. students and have served on numerous graduate committees. I also think service is an obligation for all professional scientists, no matter their affiliation. I was honored to be elected President of the Herpetologists’ League and the International Society for the Study and Conservation of Amphibians, to be elected to the Executive Council of the World Congress of Herpetology, to have served as an Associate Editor for nearly 9 years with the *Journal of Herpetology*, and to be on many other committees and editorial boards. It has been a privilege.

Throughout my career, I have been fortunate to be a field biologist. From the mountain cloud forests of Guatemala to the bottom of the Grand Canyon, I have experienced many habitats and faunas, always looking for amphibians and reptiles even if on vacation. For many studies (e.g., on the Red Hills Salamander), I worked alone, often under extreme conditions. There is nothing like hacking through a blackberry patch across a clearcut to survey a small rock outcrop in +100°F temperatures in southern Alabama. Or wading in semi-flooded waters on Sipsey Fork to set turtle traps, turning logs in the Great Smoky Mountains during an April snowstorm, swatting sand gnats on humid Melbourne Beach in Florida, looking for chameleons on freezing nights on Mt. Kenya, riding for 11 hours on a hideously overcrowded shrimp boat along Madagascar’s northern coast at night with no running lights, or hunkering down on a Bahamian island waiting out the mid-day microwave heat. The difficult times were vastly outweighed by the Egmont Key sunsets, the beauty of deep Southwestern canyons, the sound of longleaf pine needles and palms in the wind, the overarching awe of the Himalayas (and finding *Scutiger* tadpoles at 5000 m), and the way the low clouds hang on the Southern Appalachians. As Emmitt Reid Dunn said, “yet it is the places that stick in my mind.” And it has been gratifying to throw in a little conservation along the way.

I retired from the USGS in 2007 as a GS-15 Research Zoologist, having been the Project Leader for the Amphibian Research and Monitoring Initiative (ARMI) in the Southeast. It was great to be a part of that program on the ground floor, certainly the most important national amphibian research project ever undertaken. In retirement, I continue to publish my research and write/edit books, most notably *Frogs of the United States and Canada*, *Amphibian Ecology and Conservation - A Handbook of Techniques*, and *Reptile Conservation and Ecology - A Handbook of Techniques*. It has been an interesting ride, one not over yet.
Bibliography


**Most Unusual “Publications**
Federal Register Documents


**English Language Editor**


**Blogs**


Curriculum Vita – C. K. Dodd, Jr.

Birthplace: San Diego, California; November 16, 1949.
Marital Status: Married

Education:
  B.S.  University of Kentucky 1971
  M.S.  Arizona State University 1972
  Ph.D.  Clemson University 1974

Positions Held:
Arizona State University
  1971-1972  Teaching Assistant
Clemson University
  1972-1974  Teaching Assistant
National Park Service
  1974-1978; 1998-2001 Research Collaborator in various National Parks
Mississippi State University
  1975-1976  Visiting Assistant Professor,
Florida Integrated Science Center, U.S. Geological Survey, Gainesville, FL
  formerly the National Ecology Research Center, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
  1984-2007  Zoologist (Research)
  2000-2007  Project Leader, USGS Amphibian Research and Monitoring Initiative SE USA
  2004    Organizer: USGS Amphibian Research and Monitoring Initiative national meeting
           December 6-10, Wekiwa Springs State Park, Apopka, FL
  1976-1984  Zoologist (Herpetologist)
University of Florida, Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation
  1986-present  Associate Professor (Courtesy)
  1991-present  Graduate Faculty
University of Florida, Department of Interdisciplinary Ecology
  2002-present  Associate Professor (Courtesy)
Florida Museum of Natural History
  1985-present  Courtesy Affiliate
IUCN Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group
  1987-present
IUCN Crocodile Specialist Group
  Corresponding member, 1983-1989; Full member, 1989-1997
IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group (Full member, 1978-2003)
IUCN Declining Amphibians Populations Task Force
  1992-2006; Chair, Southeastern U.S. section, 1992-2000)
IUCN Amphibian Specialist Group
  2006-present
National Museum of Natural History
1976-1984 Research Associate

Awards & Special Recognition:
- Graduate Tuition Scholarship, Arizona State University (1971-1972)
- Annual Award for Conservation, Desert Tortoise Council (1985)
- Quality Performance Award, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (1986)
- Co-Chairman's Special Award, Gopher Tortoise Council (1990)
- Annual Award for Conservation, Desert Tortoise Council (2009)
- Outstanding Book Published (*Frogs of the United States and Canada*), The Wildlife Society (2014)
- Outstanding Reference Source (*Frogs of the United States and Canada*), American Library Association (2014)
- Outstanding Academic Title (*Frogs of the United States and Canada*), Choice Magazine (2014)

Fieldwork: United States; Canada; Bahamas, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Dominican Republic; Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica; Ecuador/Galapagos Is., Brazil; Kenya; Seychelles, Madagascar; Australia; People’s Republic of China, Taiwan, Tibet, Nepal, Singapore, Sri Lanka; England, Germany, Belgium, France, Switzerland, Italy, San Marino, Vatican City, Monaco, Czech Republic, Greece/Crete.

Professional Organizations
- American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists [dates of membership]
  - Board of Governors, ASIH (1990-1995)
  - Stoye Award Committee, ASIH (1991)
  - Secretary-Treasurer, Southeast Division, ASIH (1990-1991)
  - Vice President, Southeast Divis., ASIH (1991-1992)
  - President, Southeast Divis., ASIH (1992-1993)
  - Editorial Policy Committee, ASIH (2005-2009)
- Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation
  - Student Travel Award Committee, (Chair: 1993-1997)
  - Nominating Committee (1994)
- The Herpetologists’ League
  - Best Student Paper Committee, HL (1988)
  - Resolutions Committee, HL (1990-1994; Chair, 1993-94)
Vice-President, (2000-2001)
Past-President (Member of Board of Trustees) (2004-2009)
Nominating Committee, HL (2008-2009)
Long-term Planning Committee (2008-2009)

**International Society for the Study and Conservation of Amphibians**
Board of Councilors, ISSCA (1996-2005)
President, ISSCA (2003-2005)
Editorial Board, *Alytes*

**Miscellaneous Conservation Programs**
Scientific Committee, World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation, 1979, Washington, D.C.
Technical Advisory Committee, Western Atlantic Turtle Symposium, 1983, San Jose, Costa Rica.

**Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles**
Committee on Grants in Herpetology, SSAR (1978-1979, 1986)
SSAR Conservation Committee (1979-1998; Chair 1994-1998)
Seibert Prize Award Committee, SSAR (1992)
Board of Directors (1998-2000)

**World Congress of Herpetology**
Executive Council, (2005-2012)
Audit Committee, (2006-2016, Chair 2008-2016)
Guest Editor: *Conservation Biology, Southeastern Naturalist, Herpetological Conservation and Biology* (selected papers)
Endnote – Contributions to the history of the Division of Amphibians & Reptiles – USNM

As one grows older, there comes a desire to record one’s past experiences and also the history of one’s workplace. None of us in the USNM Division of Amphibians and Reptiles has expressed a desire to write a divisional history for the past half-century. As an alternative, I am encouraging colleagues who have been associated with the division to create autobiographical sketches. Although such sketches will not provide a detailed history of divisional activities, each offers a unique perspective of past divisional activities and insights into each author’s contribution to the division and, of course, a window into the author’s personality.

The SHIS series is an obvious outlet. SHIS has been a facet of the division’s contribution of research information to the herpetological community since its establishment in 1968 by James A. Peters.

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Previously published contributions to divisional history