

Academy for Lifelong Learning

# Discovering Hidden Biodiversity in the World Around Us

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Whit Gibbons  
University of Georgia  
Savannah River Ecology Lab



**Black Swamp Snake**

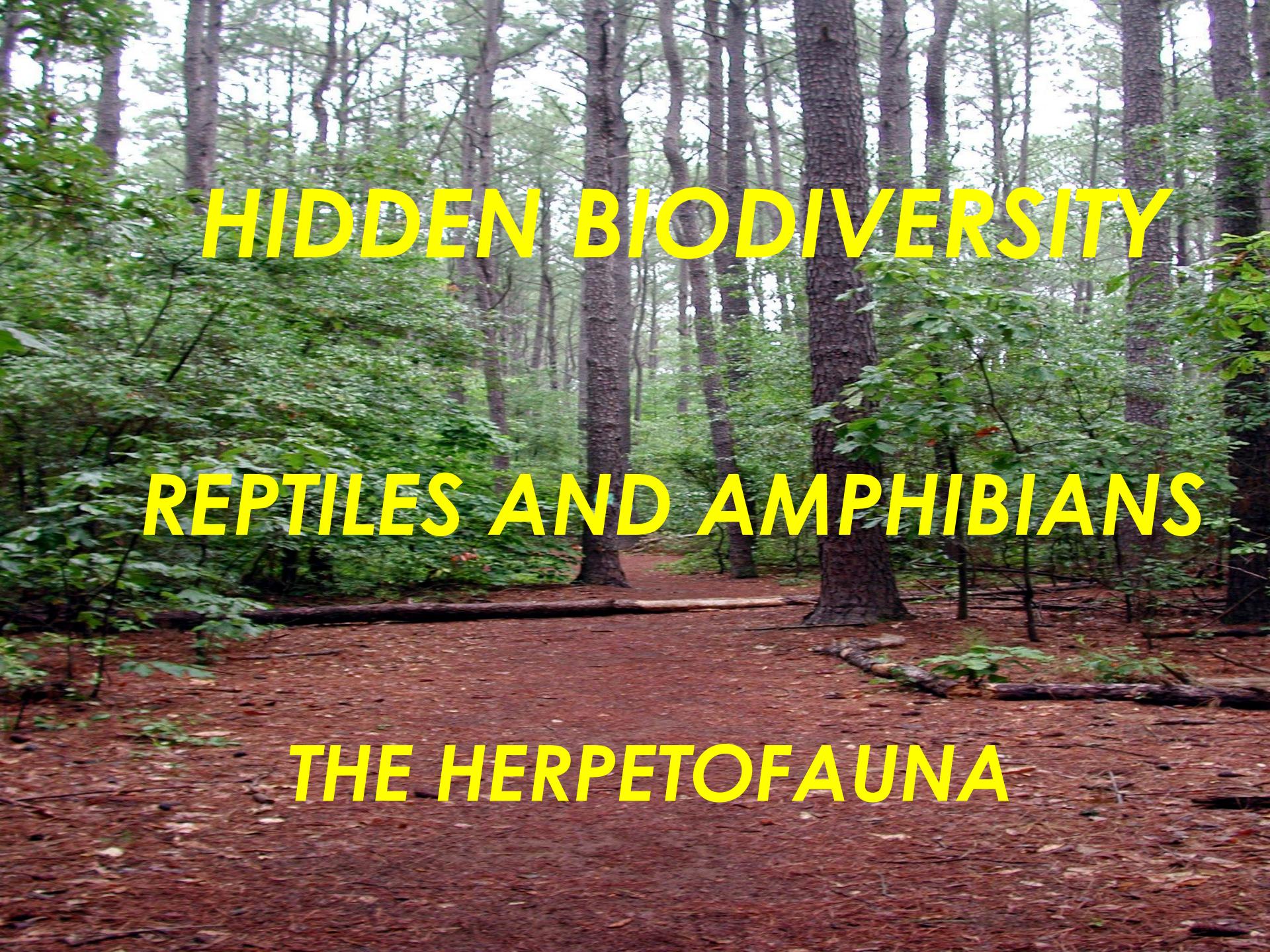
**J. D. Willson**

# Rainbow Snake



What is hidden biodiversity?  
**Herpetofauna**

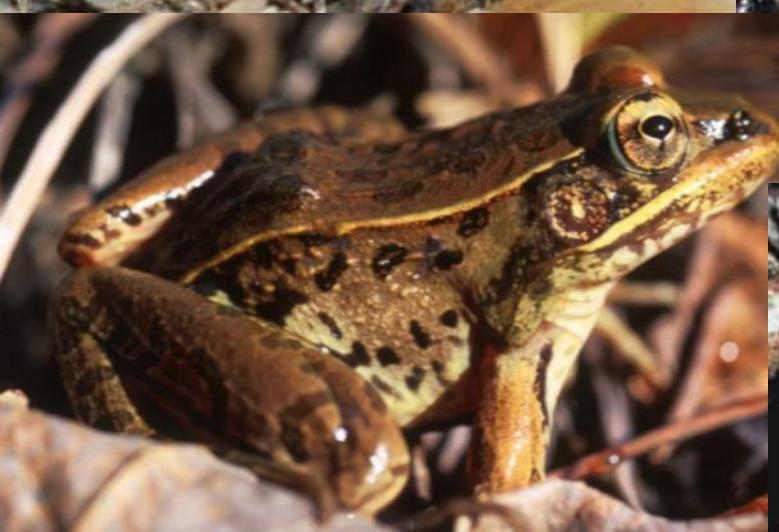
What are herpetofauna?  
**Reptiles and Amphibians**



# **HIDDEN BIODIVERSITY**

## **REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS**

### **THE HERPETOFAUNA**



# Who are the Amphibians?

Frogs

Toads

Salamanders

# Bullfrog



# Little Grass Frog



*Eastern Red  
Salamander*



Chamberlain's  
Dwarf  
Salamander



# Amphiuma



# Who are the **REPTILES?**

**Snakes**

**Lizards**

**Turtles**

**Alligators**

# *Eastern Ribbon Snake*



# Blue-tailed Skink



# Common Snapping Turtle



# American Alligator



# **WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?**

## **CHARACTERISTICS**

**What makes it a reptile vs an amphibian?**

## **BIODIVERSITY**

**How many species are where?**

**Worldwide**

**South Carolina**

**Aiken County**

# **WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?**

## **IDENTIFICATION**

**How do you know who  
you're dealing with?**

## **ECOLOGY**

**What do they eat, and how do they get it?  
What eats them,  
and how do they protect themselves?  
And other behaviors.**

# WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?

Where, when, and how do you find them?

What do you do about it when you do?

QUESTIONS/ANSWERS

[whitgibbons.com/questions/](http://whitgibbons.com/questions/)

What is the difference  
between

**Reptiles**

and

**Amphibians?**

# **AMPHIBIANS**

**No scales  
(usually smooth skin)**

# Onate Chorus Frogs



# *Southern Toad*



# **AMPHIBIANS**

**No claws  
(soft toes)**

# *Three-lined Salamander*



# **REPTILES**

**Scales  
(rough or smooth skin)**



**American Alligator**

# Five-lined Skink



# Softshell Turtle



# **REPTILES**

## **Claws (toenails)**

# Five-lined Skink



# *Eastern Glass Lizard*



**HOW MANY  
REPTILES  
AND  
AMPHIBIANS  
ARE THERE?**

# AMPHIBIANS

~9,000

Frogs and Toads	-	7,932
Salamanders	-	828
Caecilians	-	231

# REPTILES

12,500

Lizards	- 8,108
Snakes	- 4,203
Turtles	- 336
Crocodilians	- 27
Tuatara	- 1

# AMPHIBIAN AND REPTILE BIODIVERSITY THE HERPETOFAUNA

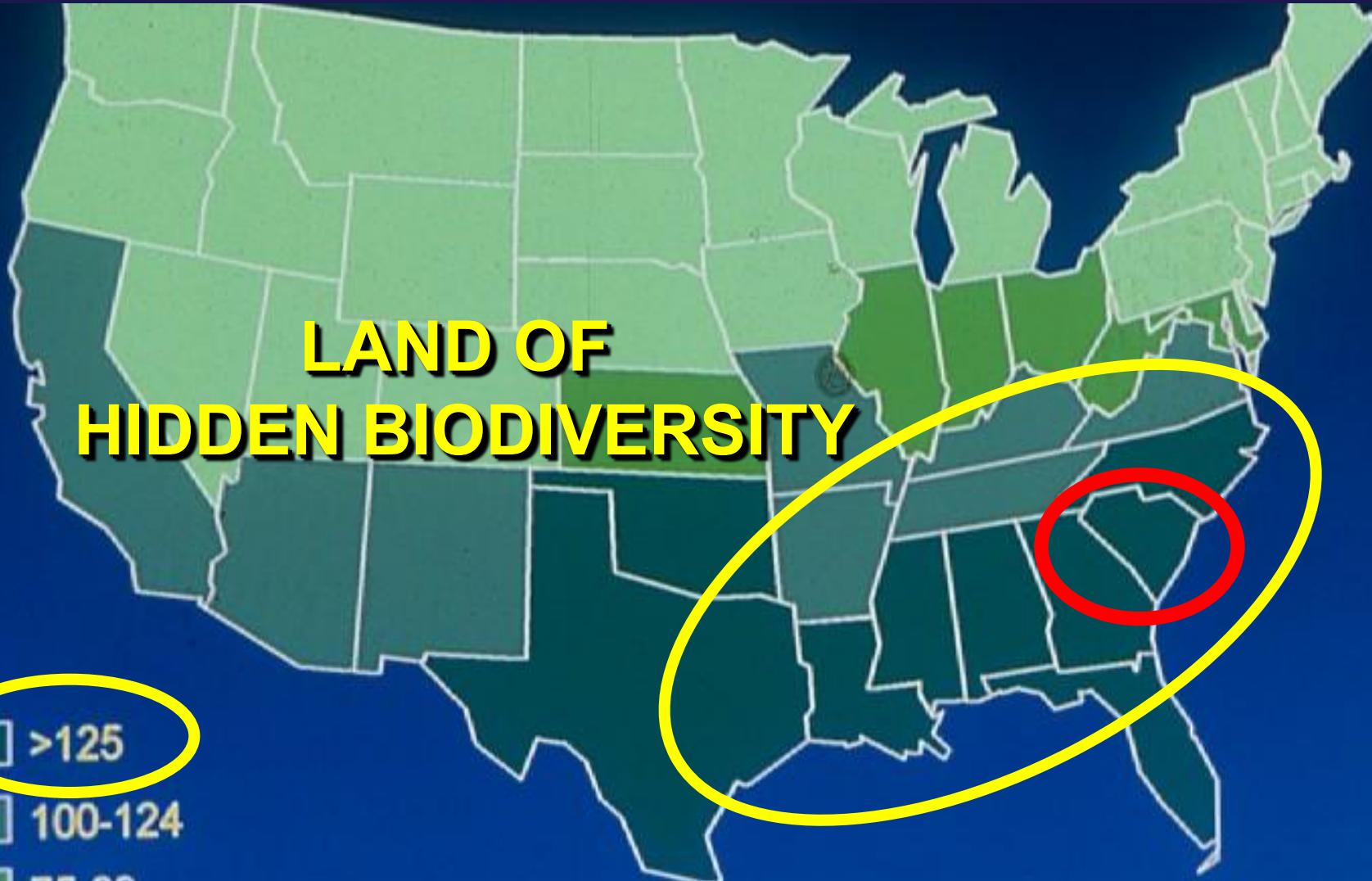
**LAND OF  
HIDDEN BIODIVERSITY**

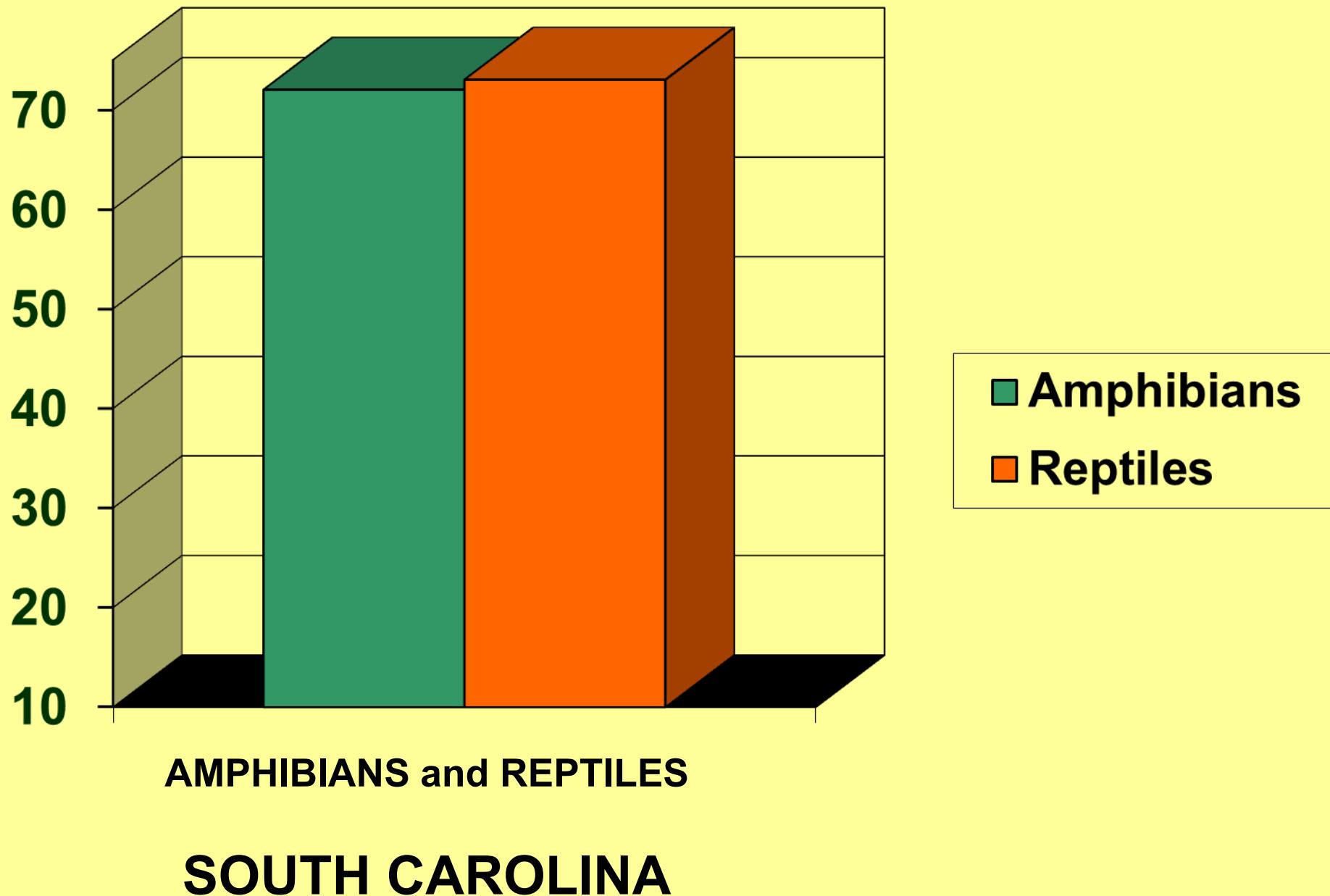
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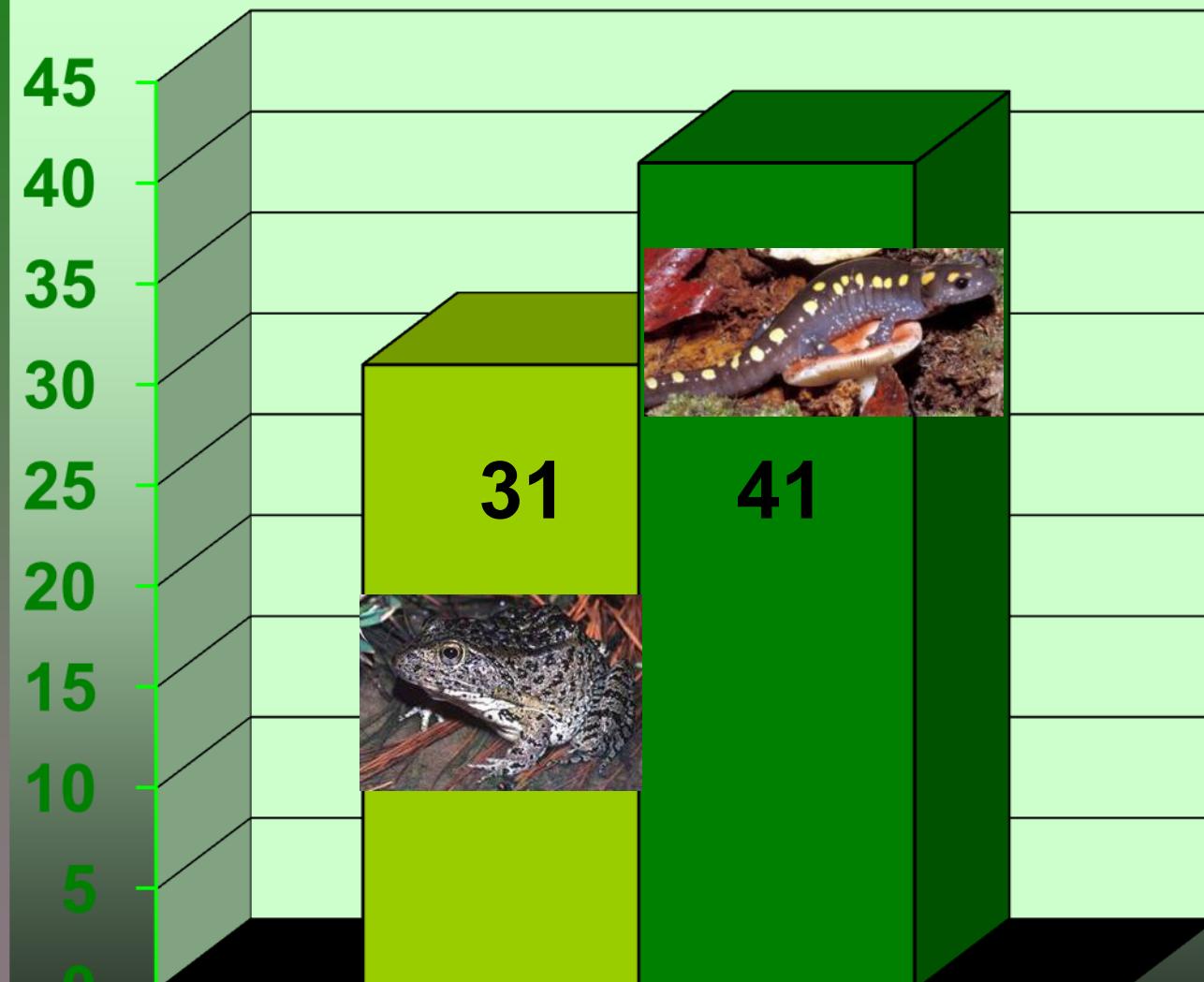
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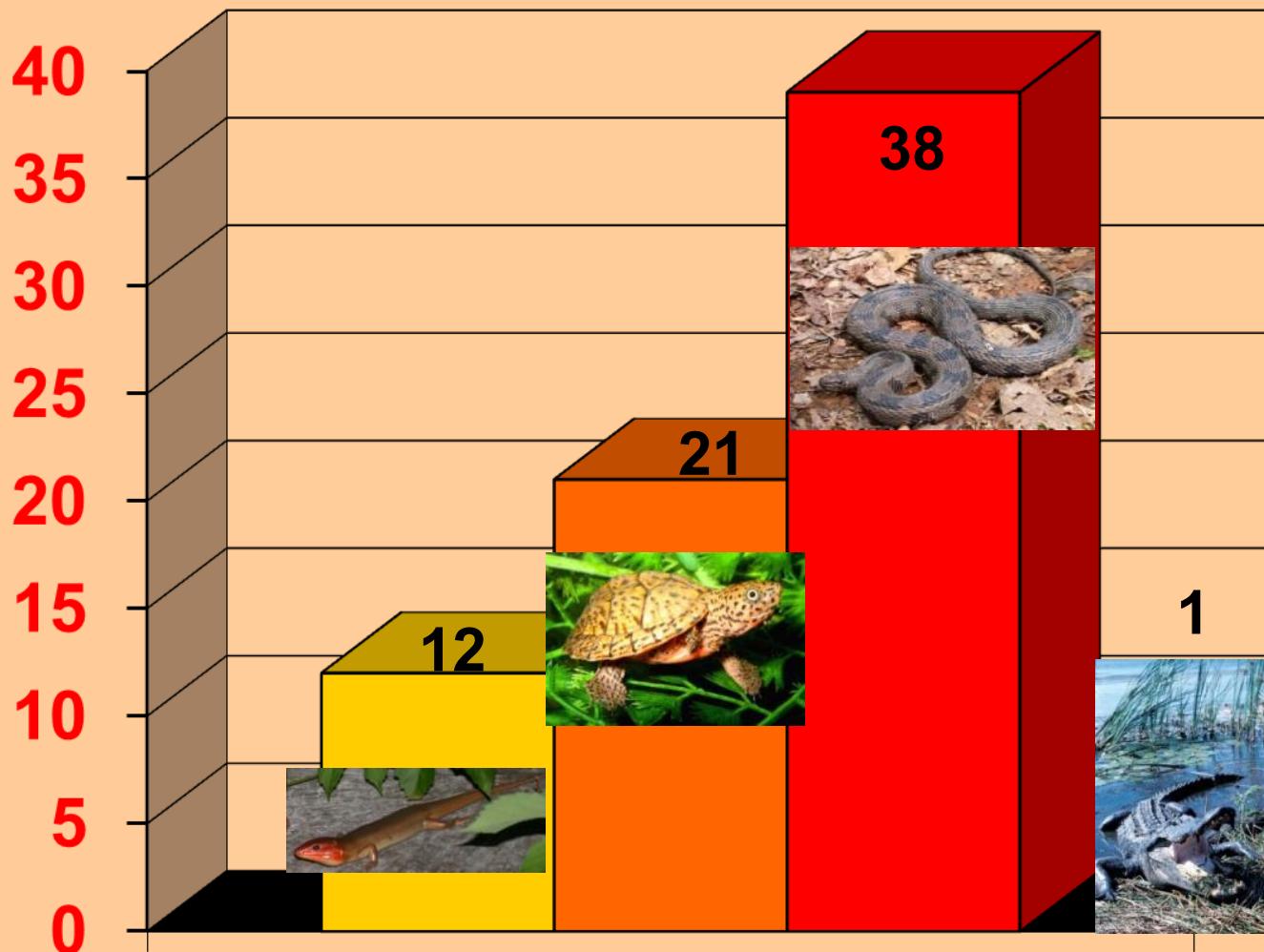






## AMPHIBIANS SOUTH CAROLINA

- Frogs
- Salamanders



## REPTILES SOUTH CAROLINA

- Lizards
- Turtles
- Snakes

# AIKEN COUNTY AMPHIBIANS

42

Frogs/Toads 25

Salamanders 17

# AIKEN COUNTY REPTILES

59

Snakes - 37

Turtles - 12

Lizards - 9

Alligator - 1

# AIKEN COUNTY REPTILES

60

Snakes -	33
Turtles -	12
Lizards -	9 + 1
Alligator -	1

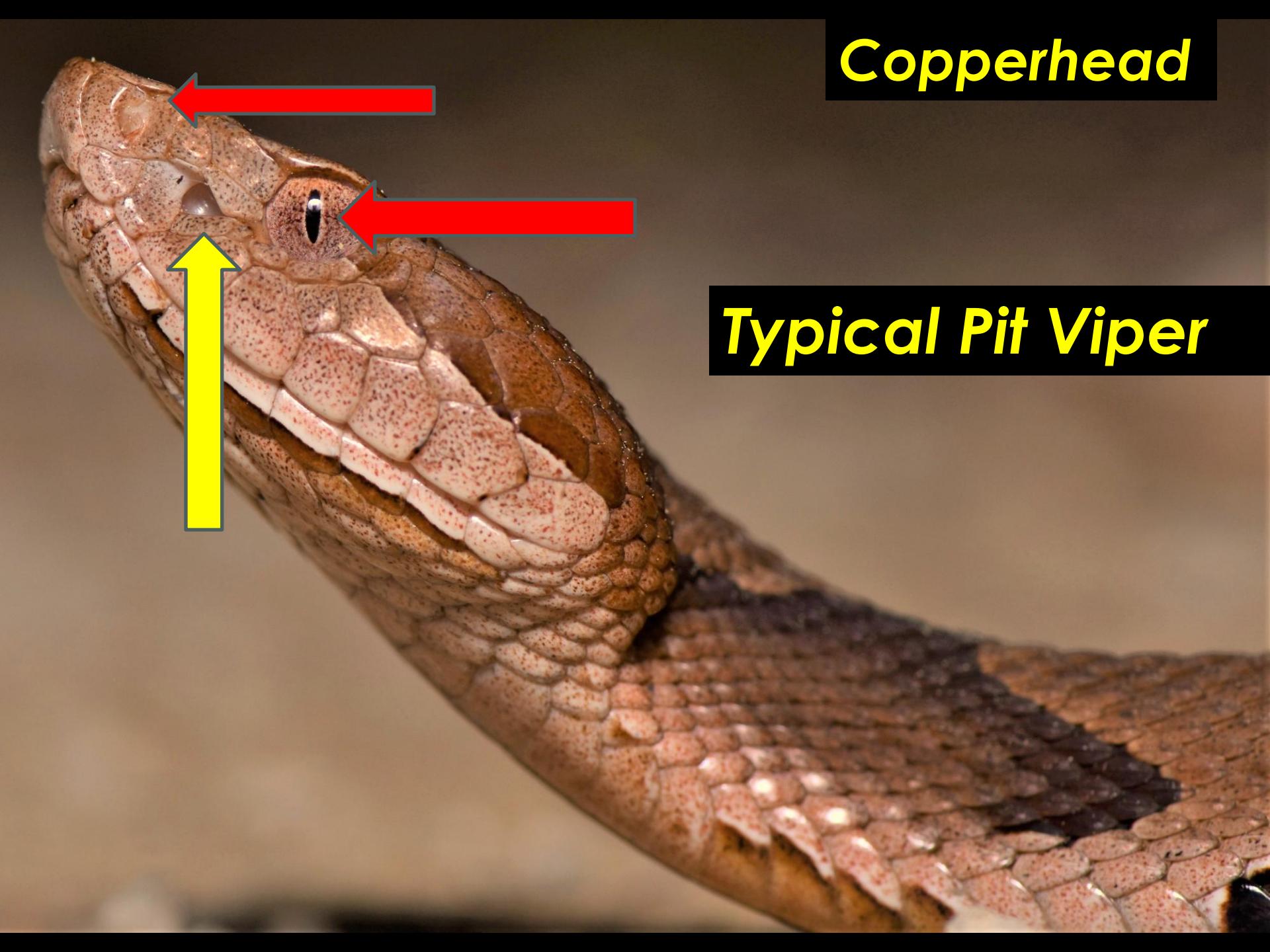
# Mediterranean Gecko



# **WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?**

## **Personal Goals**

**Of the more than 100 kinds of reptiles and amphibians native to Aiken County, how many do you want to be able to identify?**



**Copperhead**

**Typical Pit Viper**

# Copperhead



# Banded Watersnake



# Corn Snake



# ***Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake***

***Not  
Documented  
from Aiken  
County***



# Timber/ Canebrake Rattlesnake



# Timber/ Canebrake Rattlesnake



# Pygmy Rattlesnake



# Pygmy Rattlesnake



# Cottonmouth



# Brown Watersnake



# Eastern Coral Snake



# Scarlet Kingsnake



# Scarlet Snake



# Eastern Coral Snake



# Scarlet Kingsnake



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# QUESTIONS?



QUESTIONS/ANSWERS

[whitgibbon.com/questions/](http://whitgibbon.com/questions/)

**Cottonmouth**

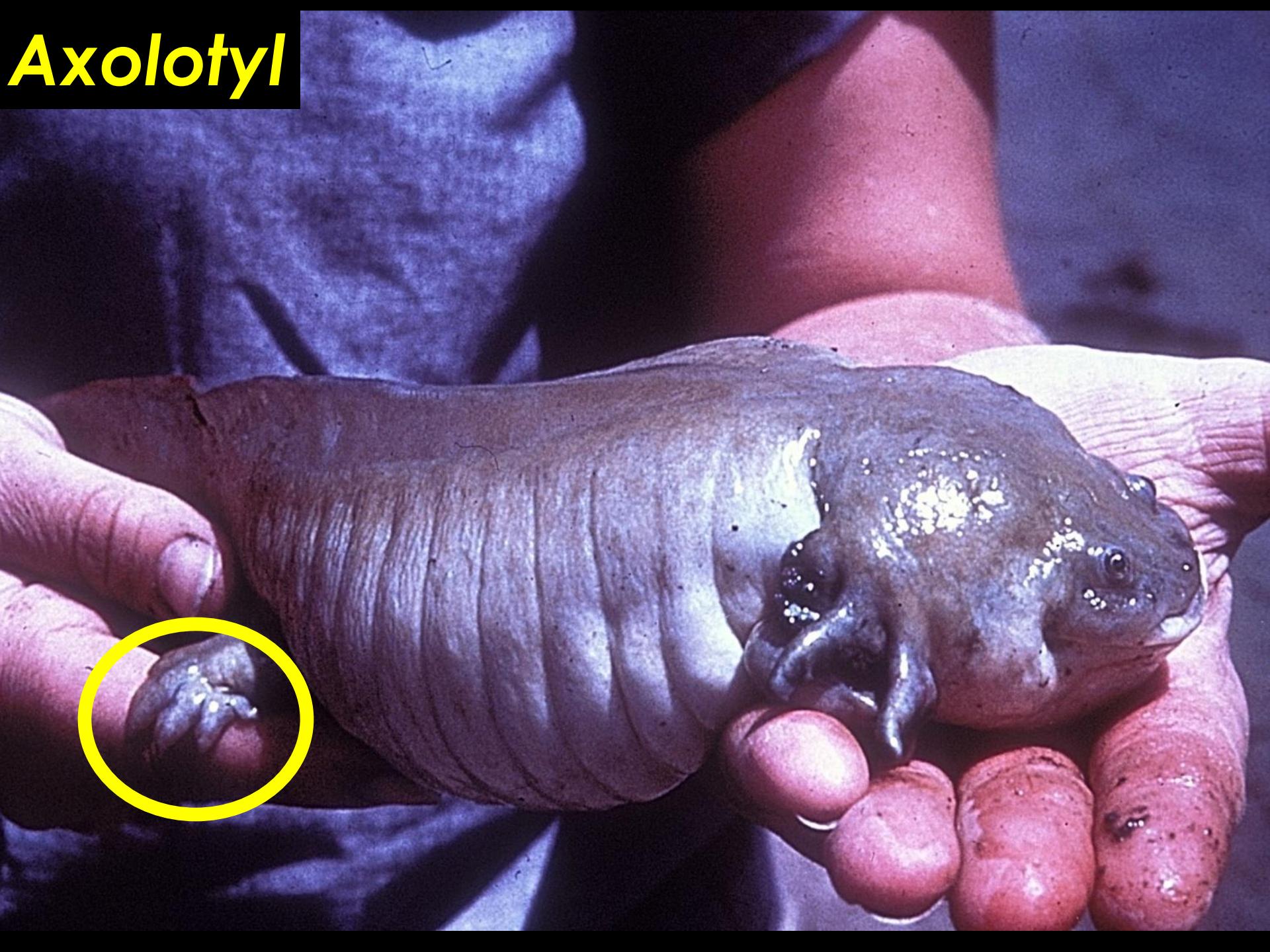
**whitgibbons.com/questions/**



# Tokay Gecko



# Axolotyl



# IGUANA



# *Coastal Ratsnake*



# What do we have that we could lose?

## *Salamander Diversity*



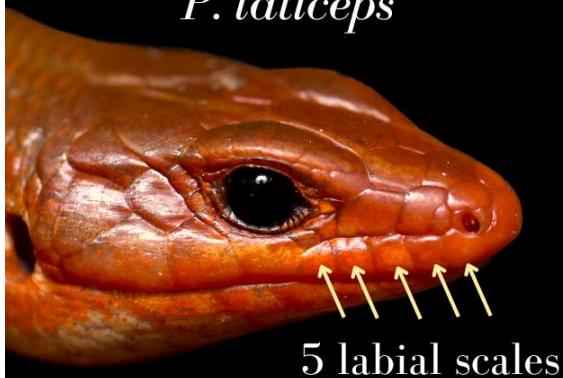
**0 Species**





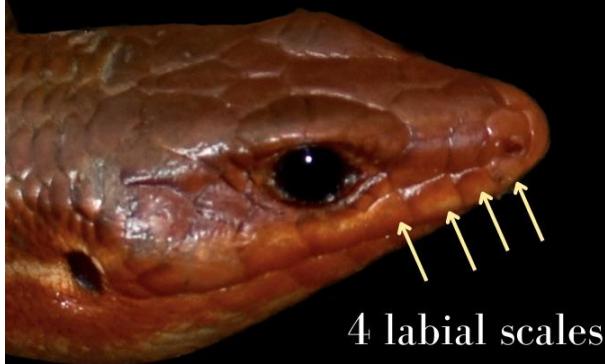


*P. laticeps*



5 labial scales

*P. fasciatus*



4 labial scales

*P. inexpectatus*

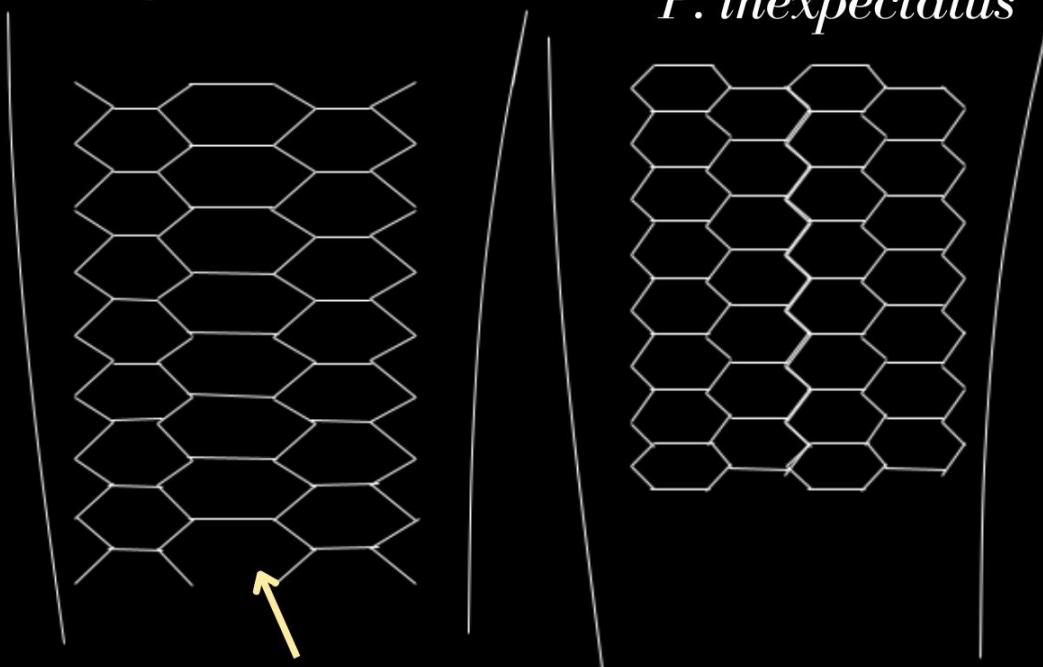


4 labial scales



*P. laticeps* and  
*P. fasciatus*

*P. inexpectatus*



Note: enlarged middle row  
of scales







# Five-lined Skink

