

on small, clumped prey (Colli et al. 1997; Huey and Pianka 1981). At the taxonomic level of the prey reported here, the diet of *E. gaudichaudii* is similar to that of the closely related cercosaurine gymnophthalmids (Pellegrino et al. 2001) *Neusticurus ecleopus* (Rocha 1991; Vitt et al. 1998a) and *Prionodactylus eigenmanni* (Vitt et al. 1998b), and the gymnophthalmine *Vanzosaura rubricauda* (Vitt 1995).

The elongate and streamline body and tail of *E. gaudichaudii*, together with its relatively narrow mouth and the presence of a chemosensory-sensitive tongue, are suggestive of an active forager (Colli et al. 1997; Cooper 1994). However, we are not able to define the activity period of *E. gaudichaudii* because of the three individuals found active, two were apparently active by day and the other at night.

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Cajun-French Common Names for Louisiana Amphibians and Reptiles

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The use of common names for organisms has long plagued biologists and others because there are often multiple names for the same species or similar names for different species. This problem certainly exists for amphibians and reptiles, and efforts sanctioned by the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles, the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, and The Herpetologists' League, have resulted in a list of standardized English common names. Many previous authors were instrumental in laying the groundwork for this list (Crother et al. 2000, and references therein). However, some areas of North America have an extensive cultural history that has resulted in a unique and widespread collection of local common names. Because of the heavy French influence that has persisted in southern Louisiana at least since the 1700s, there is a collection of Cajun-French common names used ubiquitously throughout southern Louisiana, particularly within the Acadian Parishes. Given that many species of amphibians and reptiles in southern Louisiana are known locally by different names than the standard list for North America (Crother et al. 2000), it would seem useful to have a parallel list of Cajun-French names for southern Louisiana. I have compiled such a list below, primarily to facilitate fieldwork and communication about these species with local people, but also to document a unique set of common names represented by a unique local culture. Such documentation also serves as a resource for interpreting these common names as they have often appeared in the herpetological literature. This list is not exhaustive, as not every species in the area has a French common name applied. The names given here are from the "prairie" dialect spoken in the Ville Platte/Opelousas area, and there may be some variation among other areas of the Acadian Parishes. This list is also not intended to replace any of the existing Standard English names, but rather, to serve as a complement to those names. The Standard English Name according to Crother et al. (2000) is presented first, followed by the Cajun-French name, with an English translation or explanation in parentheses.

Cajun-French Common Names for Louisiana Amphibians and Reptiles

FROGS – Grenouilles (frogs)

American Bullfrog (*Rana catesbeiana*) – Ououaron (the name mimics the male's call)

Treefrogs (*Hyla*) – Rainette (little rain frog)

Chorus Frogs (*Pseudacris*) – Rain Frogs (refers to their activity association with rain)

Toads (*Bufo*) – Crapauds (toads)

SALAMANDERS

Three-toed Amphiuma (*Amphiuma tridactylum*) – Anguille (eel), Congre (refers to Congo Eel)

CROCODILIANS

American Alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*) – Cocodrie (likely derived as a variation of the French pronunciation of crocodile)

American Crocodile (*Crocodylus acutus*) – Crocodile

LIZARDS – lizards (lizards)

Little Brown Skink (*Scincella lateralis*) – Chien de Terre (ground dog), Soudèe

SNAKES – Serpents (snakes)

Copperhead (*Agkistrodon contortrix*) – Sonnette de Canne (cane rattler; shaking the tail against sugar cane leaves produces the sound of a rattlesnake)

Cottonmouth (*Agkistrodon piscivorus*) – Serpent Congo (Congo snake)

Timber Rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*) – Serpent à Sonnette (rattle snake)

North American Watersnakes (*Nerodia*) – Serpent d'Eau (water snake)

North American Gartersnakes (*Thamnophis*) – Serpent d'Arbre (tree snake, referring primarily to *T. proximus*)

DeKay's Brownsnake (*Storeria dekayi*) – Vipère (also called ground rattler in English, both of which are probably derived by misidentification, referring originally to the Pygmy Rattlesnake (*Sistrurus*))

Texas Ratsnake (*Elaphe obsoleta*) – Serpent à Rat (rat snake), Serpent à Z-oeufs (egg-eating snake)

Rough Greensnake (*Ophedryus aestivus*) – Couleuvre (snake)

Common Kingsnake (*Lampropeltis getula*) – Serpent Roi (king snake)

Eastern Racer (*Coluber constrictor*) – Serpent Noir (black snake), Fouetteuse (whipping snake)

Red-bellied Mudsnake (*Farancia abacura*) – Pointe, Aspique, Aspic (ice pick, referring to pointed tail)

TURTLES – Tortues (turtle)

Alligator Snapping Turtle (*Macrochelys temminckii*) – Trois rangs (Three-Row), Caouane (tortoise/turtle)

Common Snapper (*Chelydra serpentina*) – Cailleux (rough, ugly skin), Caouane

North American Softshells (*Apalone* sp.) – Caille molle (soft shell), Caouane de Mer (slough turtle)

Pond Slider (*Trachemys scripta*) – Tête Verte (green head)

Mobile Cooter (*Pseudemys concinna mobiliensis*) – Mobilien

All other sliders (*Trachemys*), Cooters (*Pseudemys*), Map Turtles (*Graptemys*) – Ventre Jaune (yellow belly)

Razor-backed Musk Turtle (*Sternotherus carinatus*) – Caouane

de Saule (willow turtle)

Stinkpot (*Sternotherus odorata*) – Caouane Puante (stinking turtle)

Eastern Box turtle (*Terrapene carolina*) – Caouane de Rosée (dew turtle)

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'Snake Talks' in the Classroom: Do They Influence Children's Attitudes?

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Human fear and dislike of snakes has been extensively studied and publicized (Cavendish 1994; Morgan 1996; Morris and Morris 1965). Indeed, the persecution of snakes by humans, both in the past and present, is one reason that many snake species and populations now are threatened (Greene 1997). Public opinion often influences the effectiveness of conservation initiatives; therefore, influencing and educating the public is seen as one way that managers can ensure that their decisions are respected, implemented and maintained (Jacobson 1995). Altering public opinions towards snakes will be particularly challenging because of the widespread animosity and fear shown towards these animals.

Well-conducted interpretive programs generally are considered an important mechanism for shifting public opinion. Many professionals and amateurs spend countless hours delivering interpretive programs on animals such as snakes. Many of these programs target children, who often display a pronounced dislike towards snakes similar to that shown by adults. Positively influencing children's attitudes towards snakes today is seen as a proactive step towards future snake conservation initiatives. Surveys collected by ourselves and others consistently place snakes among children's most feared animals (see Table 1). Furthermore,