

University of Arizona Museum of Natural History
Amphibian and Reptile
PSV (photo specimen voucher) datasheet explanation

Collector(s) Photo # : This refers to the personal numbering system of each photographer. A good system assigns a unique number for each individual animal photographed. Multiple photos of each animal can be given letter suffixes. For example, Wiley C. Coyote took two photos of a *Urosaurus ornatus* and one of a *Crotalus atrox*. The numbers for the two *Urosaurus* photos were WCC345A and WCC345B, while the *atrox* received WCC346. Multiple photos for a given animal are welcomed, especially if added shots help illustrate key characters. Listing multiple photo numbers for the same animal on the same data sheet would save time over filling out a separate data sheet for each photo of the same animal.

Species : The genus and species of the animal photographed (e.g., *Crotalus atrox*).

Country : The country where the animal was found (e.g., USA, Mexico).

State : The state where the animal was found (e.g., Arizona, Sonora).

County / Municipality : The county or municipality where the animal was found (e.g., Pima County). Depending on location, municipality may not always be evident.

Specific Locality : This is a written, descriptive statement of the specific place the animal was found, and should include road or airline distances from landmarks such as junctions with roads, rivers, creeks, railroads, peaks, and other man-made and natural features. It is very useful to include both distances from referenced landmarks and map coordinates. While the coordinate system (as discussed below), can be very accurate, a reference to a known landmark often offers a more solid mental image of the locale when the label is being read later away from the field. When known, include the elevation at the end of the locality. Valley names, towns, mountain ranges and other major features should be included in the locality. Too much information is better than too little. Feel free to expound on a given locality if you are uneasy about how to describe it. (Examples of adequate specific localities include: 1.1 km (by AZ Hwy 79) NW AZ Hwy 77, ca 3350 ft el., or Picacho Mts., abandoned mine at 0.9 mi (airline) N and 1.9 mi (airline) E Newman Peak, ca 2138 ft el.).

Latitude / Longitude or UTM : In recent years, with the availability of relatively inexpensive GPS receivers, coordinates such as Latitude and Longitude or Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) can be taken quickly and very accurately in the field. If these coordinates are available, please include them (and the UTM datum if available, e.g., WGS84, NAD27). The less accurate, but still useful, range and township coordinates can be included also if available.

Photographer(s) : The name or names of the photographer(s). At a minimum a name should include the first and middle initial followed by the spelled out family name. Good form includes Wiley C. Coyote or W.C.Coyote, while incomplete or confusing form includes: W.Coyote, Coyote, or Coyote, W.C.

Date of Photograph : This is the date of the encounter with the animal. If the photo was taken at a later date than the initial encounter, this should be noted. All dates should have the month completely spelled out and all four digits of the year included. Standard international format is 5 July 2005, though July 5, 2005 is acceptable. Dates such as 5/7/2005, 7/5/2005, 5 VII 2005, VII 5 2005, 5 July 05, 7/5/05, and 5 Ju 2005 are to be avoided. Though generally not required in hand-written documentation, the placement of zero to the left of single digits as in 05 July 2005 or July 05, 2005 is acceptable.

Habitat : What you actually know, remember or have written down about the habitat of the encounter. This information may relate to the macrohabitat such as general geology (basalt, granite, limestone), soils (sand, gravel, loam), and topography (flats, bajada, cliff, valley bottom), and or the vegetation (paloverde-mesquite, grassland, pine forest). Microhabitat information describes conditions more immediate to the specimen (in moist leaf litter, under rock, in fissure, under sand on dune, in water, on branch).

Weather : Any information pertaining to the air, ground or water temperature, humidity, cloud cover, or wind speed and direction.

Sex / Age / Size : Any observations on the sex, age, or size of the animal.

Other Notes : Any other incidental notes deemed important about the photographed animal (e.g., Dead On Road, etc.).

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Criteria for Submission :

1. Photograph of amphibian or reptile of sufficient quality to enable identification.
2. Must have at a minimum photographer(s) names, date of photo (encounter), and good locality information. Other information is helpful, but not required.
3. If animal is already represented in a collection as a physical specimen, please indicate that with your photo/data submission. In such a case we can utilize photos as supplemental information (e.g., color in life) linked to the physical specimen but would not create a new and unique specimen number.
4. Upon cataloging the images, they become the property of the University of Arizona Museum of Natural History.
5. Photos of animals presently in captivity should be donated to the University of Arizona Museum of Natural History only upon death of the animal.