Ohio Reptile Presentation Assignment

11 August 2009

Vertebrate Zoology Lab

Today, you will be assigned one or more Ohio reptiles to introduce to the class at the beginning of next lab period. The goal of this assignment is to develop your skills in identification of vertebrates through teaching others identification. The reptile presentation will be similar to the fish and amphibian presentations: a single species with scientific and common name and a photograph or two per slide. *You will be expected to introduce the family, common name, scientific name, and present diagnostic characteristics for each of your reptiles*. Ecological factoids or other information about your reptiles is encouraged, but not necessary – keep your presentation interesting.

Preparing for you presentation

* Use the reptile key to identify your reptiles – this will help you learn the terminology used in reptile identification and develop a sense for some of the characters used to classify your species
* Examine and compare your reptiles to one another and the other Ohio reptiles to develop ‘collection-specific’ diagnostic characteristics
* Read through and know the slide-sheet for each of your reptiles
* Perform Internet and library searches for additional information on identifying your reptiles and their ecology

Presenting

* Introduce the family, scientific name and common name
	+ If possible, identify the origin of the scientific name (etymology)
* Provide global- and collection-specific diagnostic characteristics
* Present additional interesting and relevant information about the reptiles (*e.g.*, present any morphological or behavioral characters that relate specifically to your reptile’s ecology)