Status update and AmphibiaWeb accounts

Eleutherodactylus Research Course · Fall 2026

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Where we are: week 12 of 16

Done

- Measuring calls the way published descriptions do (Kohler et al. 2017)
- Observer calibration
- Project proposals (Milestone 1)
- Clean data file and a notebook that renders from a fresh session (Milestone 2)
- AmphibiaWeb full draft, with written feedback on Canvas

What's left

Date	What
Today and Wed Nov 11	Catch-up week: open work time, no new deadlines
Mon Nov 16	**Milestone 3:** complete figures and results
Wed Nov 18	AmphibiaWeb second draft due
Nov 23–27	Fall break, no class
Mon Nov 30	**Milestone 4:** full drafts. AmphibiaWeb final draft due
Dec 2 and 7	Final presentations; manuscripts handed off

Sections most drafts need to fix

Second draft due Wednesday, Nov 18. Final goes to AmphibiaWeb Mon Nov 30.

1. Diagnosis. A diagnosis says how your species differs from its close relatives, so name them. "*E. species* differs from *E. relative* in having a visible tympanum (eardrum); the tympanum is hidden in *E. relative* (Author year)." Your source paper almost always has a comparisons paragraph you can work from.
2. Header. Give the species authority as the full citation of the paper that first described the species, not just "Lynch 1970". For the common name, cite the paper that proposed it. Grünwald et al. (2018, 2021) proposed new common names for many of our species. If yours already had an older name, give both, each with its source.
3. Calls (Life History). Before you write "no call has been published," search your sources again. Several of you missed a published call description. If there really is none, say so in one sentence and cite the most recent paper on the species.
4. Larva. One sentence: your species is a direct developer (eggs hatch as tiny froglets, with no free-living tadpole), with a citation.

Comments: phylogeny and names

A phylogeny is a branching diagram showing how lineages are related by descent. In our papers, most are built from DNA sequences.

- Phylogenetic Relationships: cover every study that has placed your species, not just one. Start with older placements based on body features (for example Lynch 1970, or the species groups in Hedges et al. 2008), then each DNA study.
- For each DNA study, give the genes (“16S and COI”), the method (“Bayesian analysis”), and what your species grouped with.
- If studies disagree, say so. Don’t pick one and drop the other.
- Synonyms: give the original name and every later name, each with the paper that made the change.
- Other Interesting Information: if a paper debates whether your species is valid, or tells how it was discovered, put that story here.

Example sentences and a list of terms (sister species, clade, support, outgroup) are on the second-draft assignment page.

Sources, numbers, and format

- Use the main papers on your species. Your feedback ends with “Papers you haven’t used yet.” Read them and cite them.
- Allowed sources: peer-reviewed papers, expert field guides, and the species’ IUCN Red List page. Not allowed: GBIF, Amphibian Species of the World, AmphiBIO, iNaturalist, Wikipedia, and general websites. When a review or database repeats a fact, cite the original paper it came from.

- Check every number against the paper. Give SVL (snout-vent length) for males and females separately when the paper does. Convert feet to meters for elevation. Say whether a color description is from live frogs or preserved specimens; most papers tell you.
- Read your source closely before writing “not reported.” A few drafts say a paper doesn’t mention threats, colors, or habitat when it does.

- Citations: end every paragraph with one, with no comma: (Smith 2013), (Smith and Jones 2013), (Smith et al. 2013). Every in-text citation goes in the reference list, and every reference gets cited.
- Write in your own words. Technical terms can stay, but don’t follow the paper’s sentences one by one.
- Submit a .docx or .txt file with your name, UT email, and affiliation at the top, and delete the template’s instructions.

How the second draft is graded

- Out of 100 points, using the rubric attached to the Canvas assignment. Ten criteria, each rated E (full points), M (75%), R (50%), or N (0). E means ready to submit to AmphibiaWeb as is.
- Responds to feedback is worth 12 points. Fix each top priority in your feedback. If you decide not to make a change, say why in a comment when you submit.
- The ratings on your full draft were a quick first pass. Work from the written feedback on Canvas.
- The assignment page has the term list and example sentences for writing about phylogenies.

Prepared with Claude Code (Claude Opus 5.5, Anthropic): synthesis of common problems from feedback on the full drafts, and first draft of the slides.