

**BUFO TERRESTRIS** (Southern Toad). **ARBOREAL BEHAVIOR.** North American *Bufo* are highly terrestrial ground-dwellers. Only a few accounts describe climbing behavior: a *Bufo americanus* climbing a steep rocky incline in Tennessee, USA (G. Lepera, pers. comm.), *B. marinus* found in natural tree holes in Venezuela (Mijares-Urrutia et al. 1996. Herpetol. Rev. 27:138), and *B. valliceps* in arboreal refugia in Texas, USA (Neill and Grubb 1971. Copeia 1971:347-348). Here, I report an observation of a *B. terrestris* using an arboreal tree cavity as a refuge on Cumberland Island, Camden County, Georgia, USA.

At 2230 h on 23 Sept 2006, I found a funnel-shaped cavity (ca. 10 cm wide by 15 cm deep) at a height of ca. 1.6 m on a mature oak (*Quercus* sp.). The cavity likely originated from a branch that broke at its base, with subsequent decomposition of the heartwood. Inside the hollow, I found an adult *Bufo terrestris* resting about 10 cm from the entrance. The toad retreated inside the hollow, which slightly curved towards the trunk of the tree and stopped at what coincided with the middle of the branch. I probed the hollow with a piece of grass in an attempt to determine whether it continued past the curve, but I was unsuccessful in finding an opening. The toad inflated its body, raised its back, and pointed its paratoid glands at me, but did not retreat further.

I was unable to discern how the toad reached the cavity. Because of the relative remoteness of the locality, it is unlikely that humans put it there. Either the toad climbed up the outside of the vertical trunk until it reached the hollow's opening, or it used a vertical open space within the tree's trunk and followed it until it reached the cavity. However, no external opening to such an internal cavity was found at the base of the tree.

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