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LONGEVITY OF A WOODHOUSE'S TOAD

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Key words: *Bufo woodhousii*, Woodhouse's toad, Colorado, survival

We follow up a report on a male Woodhouse's toad (*Bufo woodhousii*) that had been observed since 1978 (Engeman RM, Engeman EM. 1996. Longevity of Woodhouse's toad in Colorado. *Northwestern Naturalist* 77:23). The toad had found its way into, and remained in, a basement window-well of a brick home in an unincorporated western suburb of Denver, Colorado. This property has recently changed hands, and access for future monitoring of the toad's survival is uncertain. Thus, we report its longevity as of 2002.

The toad was an adult when it 1st appeared in the window-well, and it has been observed for 25 consecutive years; thus, it is ≥ 26 y old. Little information is available on the longevity of anurans or amphibians in general. Records

from captive specimens have demonstrated longevitys of 10 to 20 y for a number of anuran species, including 36 y for the common (European) toad (*Bufo bufo*) (for example, Duellman WE, Trueb L. 1986. *Biology of Amphibians*. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill Book Co. 670 p.). The subject Woodhouse's toad is not a captive specimen, but the site in which it has lived since 1978 has been well protected from most potential predators and has offered reliable food sources and moisture, which undoubtedly have provided optimal circumstances for maximal longevity. We could not find reference to a greater longevity for a wild amphibian.

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