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APALONE SPINIFERA (Spiny Softshell). USA: SOUTH DAKOTA: YANKTON CO.: James River public access, US Hwy 81, ca. 2.0 rd km N jct 300th St (43.05711’N, 97.39966’W; WGS 84). 1 October 2014. Drew R. Davis. Verified by Travis J. LaDuc. Biodiversity Collections, University of Texas at Austin (TNIC 109081 [DRD 2072]). The skeleton of an adult female was found along the river shoreline near a public access point. New county record filling a gap in the known distribution of this species in southeastern South Dakota, where it has been documented from adjacent Clay County, South Dakota (Ballinger et al. 2000. Trans. Nebraska Acad. Sci. 26:29–46) and Cedar County, Nebraska (Ballinger et al. 2010. Amphibians and Reptiles of Nebraska. Rusty Lizard Press, Oro Valley, Arizona. 400 pp.; Fogell 2010. A Field Guide to the Amphibians and Reptiles of Nebraska. University of Nebraska–Lincoln, Lincoln, Nebraska. 158 pp.). Apalone spinifera is predicted to occur throughout the Missouri River and several of its larger tributaries, but there are no collected specimens from Yankton County (Bandas and Higgins 2004. A Field Guide to South Dakota Turtles. SDCES EC 919. South Dakota State University, Brookings, South Dakota. 36 pp.; Kiesow 2006. Field Guide to Amphibians and Reptiles of South Dakota. South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, Pierre, South Dakota. 178 pp.). The closest known specimen to this individual is from ca. 51.3 km to the southeast from near Vermillion, Clay County, South Dakota (University of Nebraska State Museum [UNSM] 18314). This specimen was collected under a South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Scientific Collecting Permit (#2014_82).

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The Lauderdale County record is a new county record and the Smith County record is the first vouchered record for the county (Selman and Qualls 2009. Herpetol. Conserv. Biol. 4:171–184; Lindeman 2013. The Map Turtle and Sawback Atlas: Ecology, Evolution, Distribution, and Conservation. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, Oklahoma. 460 pp.). The Lauderdale County record is also the first record of the species in Okatibbee Creek, the eastern tributary that forms the Chickasawhay River; it extends the range of the species 19.4 river km NW above the previous most upstream record in the Chickasawhay River in Clarke County (unpublished sight record) and 24.7 river km upstream of the previous most upstream vouchered specimen in the Chickasawhay River in Clarke County (Selman and Qualls 2009, ap. cit.). The Smith County record confirms a sighting of the species reported from 20.4 river km downstream of the site vouchered herein.

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