

Appendix D
Site Visit Field Notes with
Photographs

APPENDIX D

**MD Anderson Site Visit
Bastrop County, Texas
February 3, 2012**

Ponds on south side of campus near Lab 4

- Two man-made ponds (decommissioned retention ponds) are located west of Lab 4 (Photos 1 through 3). One pond is smaller than other. The ponds were also noted to be deep.
- No surrounding appropriate habitat for Houston toad because of adjacent development.
- The silt fencing present around both ponds is likely limiting amphibian use.
- Upon inspection, no egg strands were observed within submerged shoreline vegetation.
- Based on soil characteristics and items noted above, the pond was determined to be not suitable for Houston toad breeding.

Photo 1: Pond on south side of campus, near Lab 4 (smaller pond)



Photo 2: Pond on south side of campus, near Lab 4 (larger pond)



Photo 3: Pond on south side of campus, near Lab 4 (larger pond)



Third man-made pond on southeast side of campus

- This pond is located outside of Loop Road, southeast of Lab 4 (Photos 4 and 5).
- The pond appears to be a dammed portion of natural draw leading south.
- Hydrological connection through pipe to natural draw
- The northern cricket frog (*Acris crepitans*) and the southern leopard frog (*Rana sphenoccephala*) were present.
- Upon inspection, no egg strands were observed within submerged shoreline vegetation.
- The soil immediately surrounding this pond is composed of mostly clay, with gravel and exposed sandstone.
- Vegetation in the immediate vicinity of the pond consists of Loblolly pine, Oak sp., Red Cedar, Salt Willow, Yaupon, and Bermuda grass.
- Surrounding habitat is marginal at best for the Houston toad.
- The pond can be described as deep and silted with Mosquito Fish (*Gambusia sp.*) present.
- Based on soil characteristics, items noted above, and previous data from surveys, the pond was determined to be not likely suitable for Houston toad breeding.

Photo 4: Third man-made pond on southeast side of campus**Photo 5: Third man-made pond on southeast side of campus**Perimeter and additional clearing area in northern portion

- In the remaining campus perimeter, no extensive sand or sandy loam portions were observed; although small pockets of sandy soil are present, they were very limited and sparse, and consist of mostly silty loam and clay.
- Some portions of the perimeter and additional clearing area have already been cleared (Photo 6).
- A few small drainage features and facility outlets were observed (Photo 7).
- No suitable breeding sites for the Houston toad were observed.
- Based on lack of deep, extensive sand deposits and previous data from surveys, areas were determined to be not likely suitable for Houston toad breeding.

Photo 6: Fence, across from Conference Center



Photo 7: Drainage feature near Lab 3

