APALONE MUTICA (Smooth Softshell). USA: SOUTH DAKOTA: CORSON Co.: Grand River at US Hwy 12 crossing (45.66391°N, 100.64077°W; WGS 84). 2 May 2018. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks employees. Verified by Travis J. LaDuc. Biodiversity Collections, University of Texas at Austin (TNHC 111805 [DRD 5060]). Adult female (190 mm carapace length, 130 mm plastron length, 469.8 g) found dead along the river shoreline near US Hwy 12 bridge crossing. New county record filling a gap in the known distribution of this species in northern South Dakota, where it has been previously documented from adjacent Dewey County, South Dakota (TNHC 103520; Austin et al. 2017. Herpetol. Rev. 48:817-820) and Emmons County, North Dakota (Wheeler and Wheeler 1966. The Amphibians and Reptiles of North Dakota, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, North Dakota. vii + 104 pp.). Apalone mutica is predicted to occur in free-flowing segments of the Missouri River and several of its larger tributaries in South Dakota (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. viii + 178 pp.) and into southern North Dakota (Johnson 2015. Reptiles and Amphibians of North Dakota. North Dakota Game and Fish Department, Bismarck, North Dakota. 57 pp.). Ballinger et al. (2000. Trans. Nebraska Acad. Sci 26:29-46) included a specimen from Corson County but lacking specific locality information; however, this specimen has not been located from an extensive search through over 13,000 museum records (see Davis et al. 2017. Herpetol. Rev. 48:394-406). The closest known specimen to this individual is from ca. 56.7 km to the north from "Missouri River, 6 mi S of the mouth of Beaver Creek", Emmons County, North Dakota (Department of Biology, University of North Dakota [UND] nr-131-79; Wheeler and Wheeler 1966, op. cit.). Bandas and Higgins (2004, op. cit.) speculated that the Oahe Dam may be a barrier for the movement of individuals up the Missouri River based on the lack of individuals detected during surveys from 2002-2003 (see Bandas 2003, M.S. Thesis, South Dakota State University, Brookings, South Dakota. xiv + 106 pp.). Although the damming of the Missouri River and the creation of Lake Oahe have likely reduced habitat quantity and quality, recent surveys along Lake Oahe have identified numerous individual A. mutica which confirms that this species still occurs in this area, particularly where tributaries flow into the reservoir (Austin et al. 2017, op. cit.; DRD, unpubl. data). This specimen was collected under a South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Scientific Collecting Permit (2018_#38) issued to DRD.

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