

Leprosy Not Detected in Armadillos
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In an earlier issue of SCWDS BRIEFS (Vol. 3, No. 3), we reported on the initiation of a collaborative survey for armadillo leprosy by SCWDS and researchers at Louisiana State University (LSU). Personnel with the state fish and wildlife agencies of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, and Mississippi collected ears from 866 road-killed armadillos from 97 counties. These specimens were examined histologically for acid-fast bacilli and leprosy-like lesions. Dr. Elizabeth Howerth recently completed examination of all the specimens and did not detect lesions or organisms in any. Similar surveys done previously by other researchers in Louisiana and Texas disclosed a low prevalence of infected armadillos, usually less than 10% of the animals examined. The LSU/SCWDS survey was the first to look at armadillos from a large area of the Southeast outside of the known endemic area, and the results suggest that the infection is not widespread in the eastern portion of the animal's range.