

2006

6/10

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Day 3 - Monday Arrived at Cabretta Island onto Sapelo

downtown
Nashville

After Sunday (hangover and hurting from Sat. night!) we stayed over in Richmond Hill, GA and a big sleep, all was well Monday morning. Made endless shopping list, packed van, drove to Savannah (20 mins.) to shop for 10-days worth of food. Triplett was a bit tired from 2, 12 hour days of driving, moving slowly. We had to get food, pack it into van and be on the road by 1pm.

So we were on the way by 2pm! On well, we got to the ferry... but! We have set the record of biology student luggage quotas. The Georgia DNR deckhands (big black men with slow smiles) were shaking their heads. It was a bit silly, the pile of bags. But we'll be livin' it up on the island.

Everyone was running around the ferry, covered in salt spray. Most of the residents of the island are black slave descendents. The village of Hog Hammock is one of the only places of its kind in Georgia, unbelievable.

Really feels like the south. So its about 90°F-ish and we unloaded our bag-heap onto a yellow schoolbus, Marvin the driver was so nice, and patient! Set up camp in a few hours and with about an hour of daylight left took a stroll down the beach, collecting Quahogs, sand dollars, whelks, crab shells, mussels and oyster shells. Then we realized how plentiful they all are and we got more selective! Triplett and Jon were bodysurfing. It was a hazy, golden dusk, very beautiful. Strange and happy thoughts to be immersed in this environment again. I feel so centered and at peace here. I love the ocean but it's also a return to my youth. I hadn't realized (maybe way deep down...) how I miss being all eyes and ears. Pittsburg doesn't offer much that way.

Day 4

Tues 11

01/13

1st morning - J cooked eggs w Shirley Rose

T- bxdysurjng 1st thing

- seining at 2:pm - net sizes, feeling of unexpected
- spaghetti for dinner, cookies galore

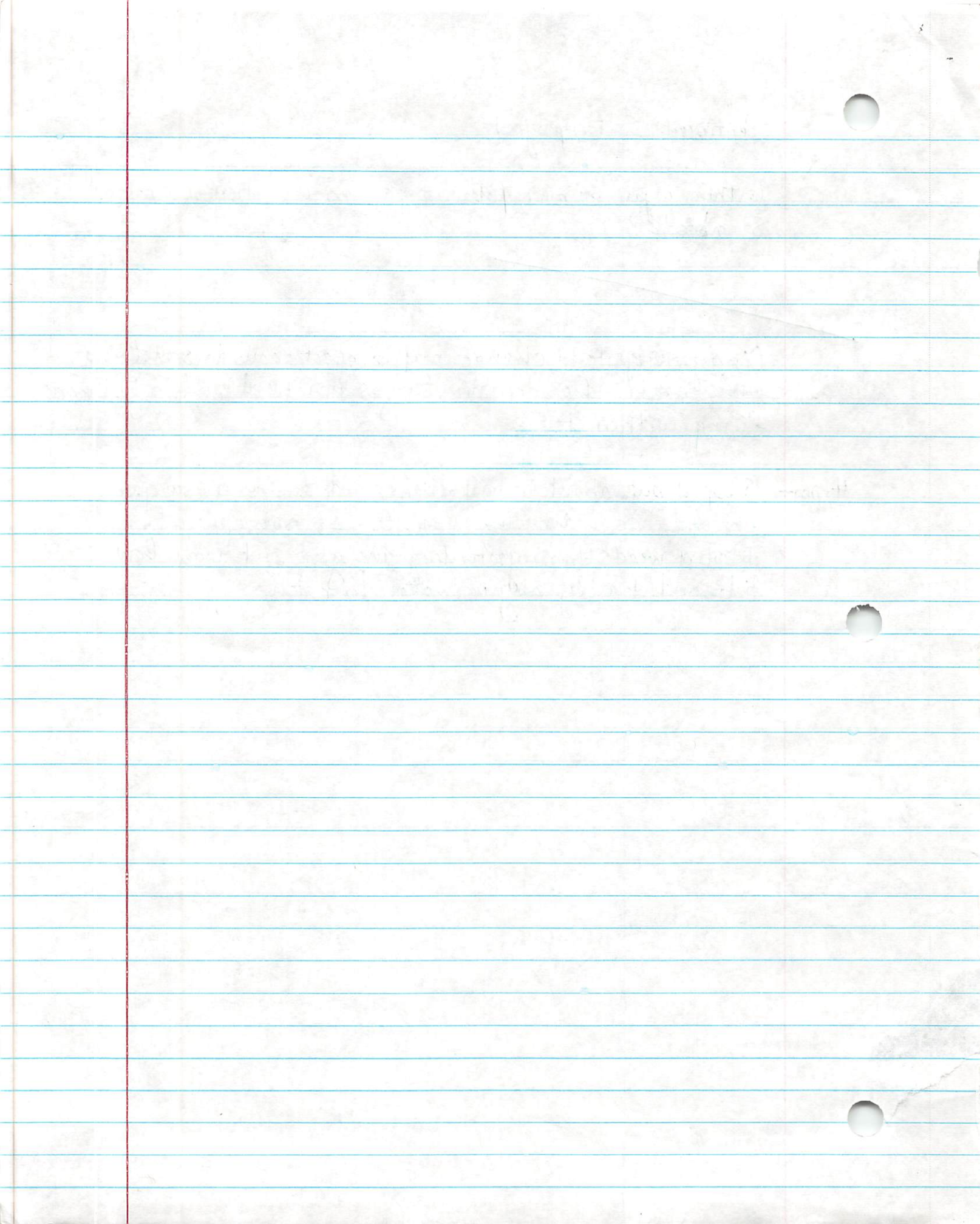
snake in tree! jumbo shrimp, ~~str~~ rays.

Pertinent ?'s for project:

Is there a fish or micro/other organism essential to rays?
Symbiotic?

Cindy suggested I change my project focus to something more broad. Decided on sargassum weed and organisms living within it.

4:pm- Scooped out about 8 basketball sized clumps of sargass , checked for nudibranches or fishes, none apparent. Most of weeds from yesterday were gone, it was low tide and barely any in water to catch.



Day 1 - Tuesday, with full camp set-up

6/11

Today's

Companion

* Species: (getting familiar w species)

six-lined racerunner (*Chenidophorus sex-lineatus* ~~haplitis~~ ^{serlineatus})

boat tailed grackle

Painted indigo bunting

Carolina wren w hatchlings in nest near Emily's tent

Southern toad (*Bufo terrestris*)

Oak toad (*Bufo quercicus*)

my tent-mate → Squirrel tree frog (*Hyla squirella*)

peed on Jon → Intergrade Rat Snake (3-4 feet) Hybrid between yellow/black Rat

Broadhead skink

Five-lined skink

Atlantic Bumper *Chloroscombrus chrysurus*

Florida Pompano

Spot

Butterfish

Sand Drum

ocean { Atlantic stingray (see pic - 3-4 ft across!) *Dasyatis sayi*

Flounder

shrimp

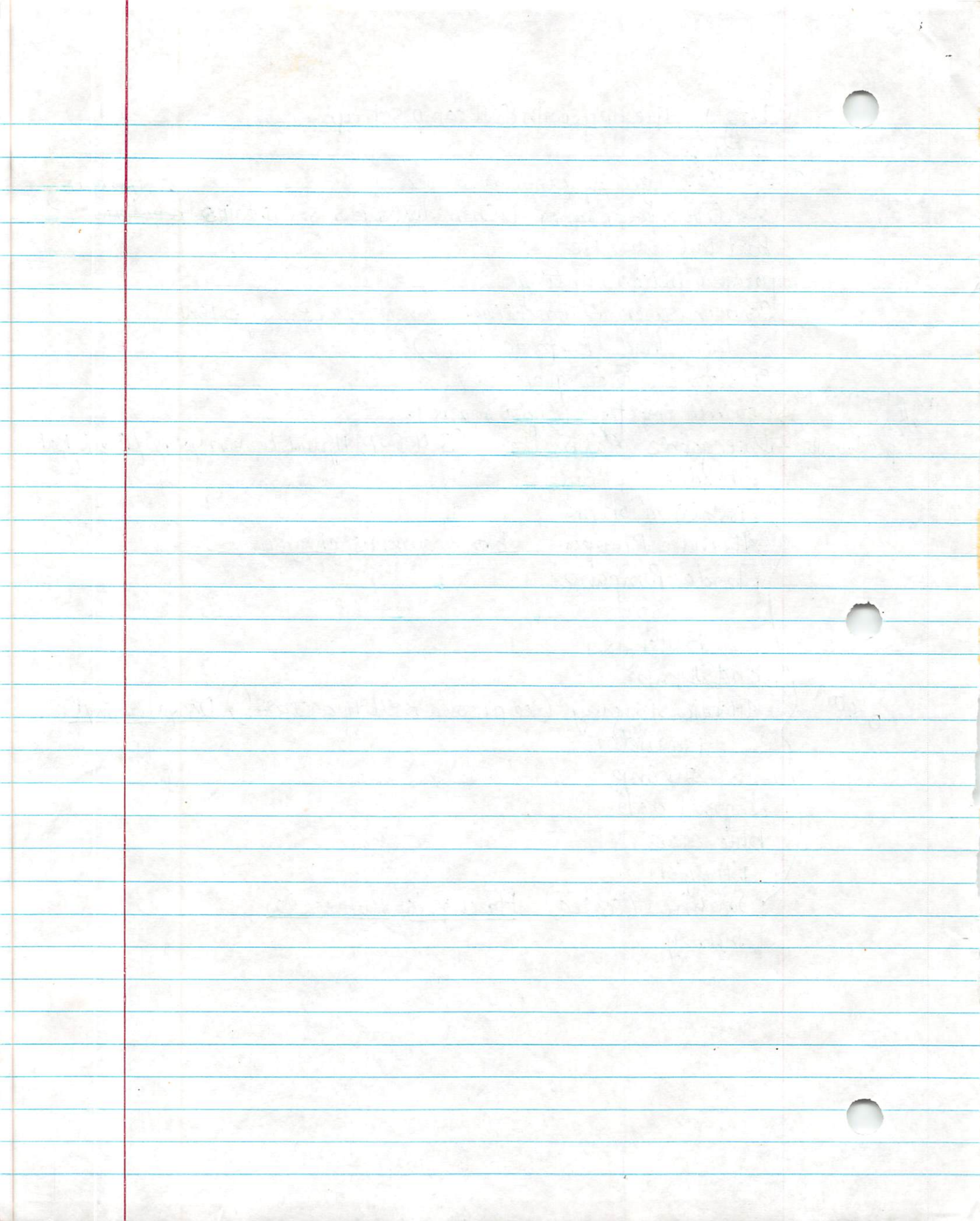
Leopard crab

Blue crab

Bluefish

Sardine (scaled) *Harengula humeralis*

Anchovy



Day 2

Camp meeting, discussed projects/ideas/what learned so far.

AM - Body surged a la triplett

after
noon } help Sarah / Scott Key fish?

Think I'll do my project on stingrays and their ecology.

So here goes:

Family Dasyatidae

Venom producing caudal spine glands. 118 species worldwide.

"Mine" hydraulically to expose bottom organisms - wide variety eaten.

Venomous spine, medium to large, disk rhombic:

Roughtail stingray - *Dasyatis centroura*

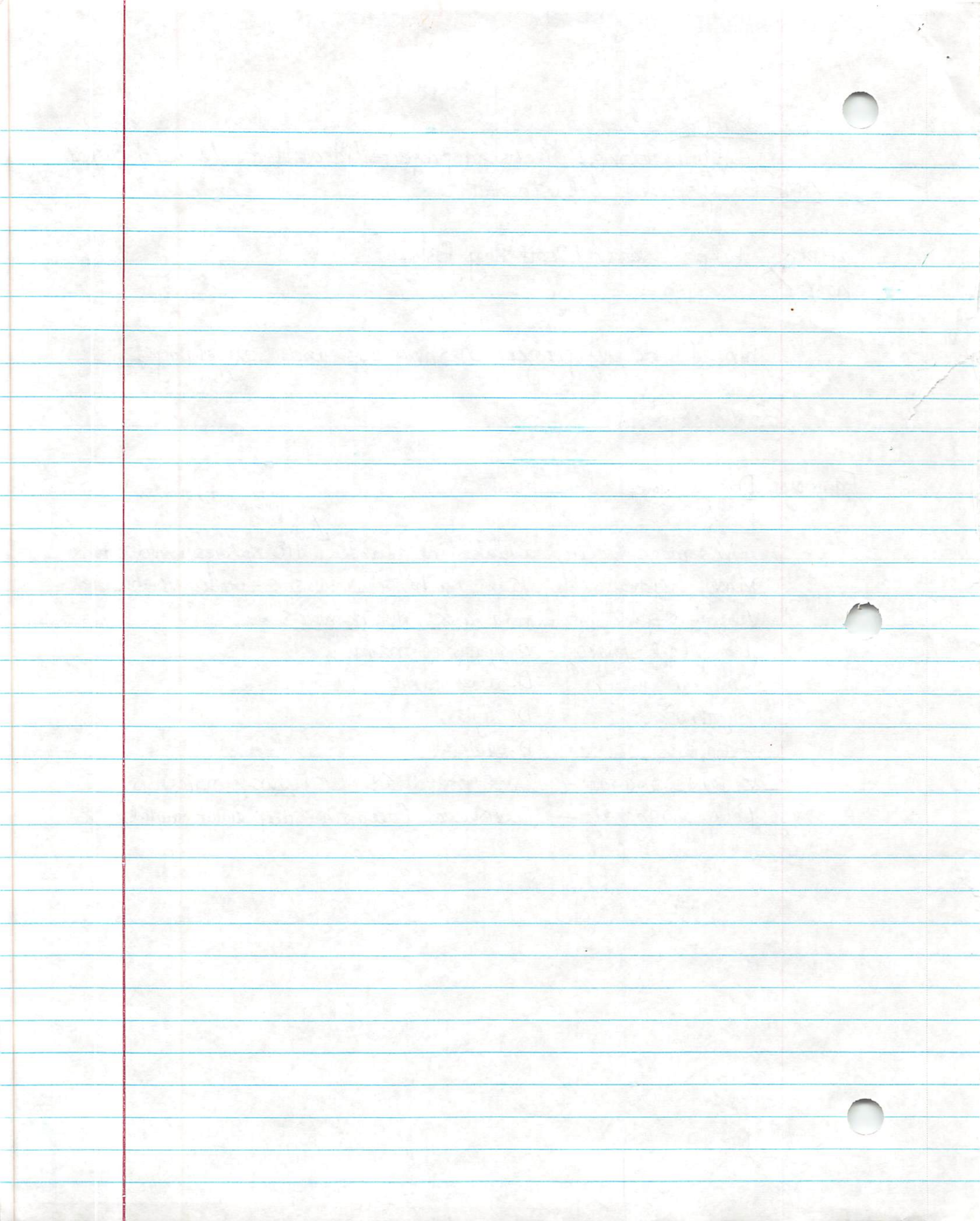
Southern " *D. americana*

Bluntnose " *D. sayi*

Atlantic *D. sabina*

Yellow Stingray - almost round ↑ *Urolophus jamaicensis*

Pelagic Stingray - *D. violacea* (deep sea - deep violet caudal)



wed 6/12

Day 5

N. beach nature walk - to N. swamp - apex of island, met turtle girl!

T. lost glasses b found
barnacle covered
hard hat

Relaxation and interaction are now in sync with our group. Cook teams seem to be working efficiently for the most part. Days are scorching hot, after lunch we take refuge under the oaks and spanish moss, writing in our journals. Sarah M / Scott have been bug keying fish, Their interest is motivating them plus they both have very stern work ethics, stress themselves about every little thing. Learning can be fun - wait - "The life of grad students." I guess what I'm saying is I have been doing my own thing, helping out when I can. Cindy has been the same, doing occasional birding / sea shelling. Triplett is like a big kid, showed us how to bodysurf this morning. Yesterday (Day 4) we seine netted! Holy cow we pulled out 2 HUGE (3-4 across) stingrays!!! Insane. I actually touched one for a while, after T detached its stinger (i)

So far today, we've bodysurfed in the AM, during which I got drowned by massive wave. I literally swallowed / inhaled a pint of water while under it, scary. After hacking up half of lung, I was okay.

Dixie Smith is a very cool lady - her tent is next to mine. She seems so gentle and smart, someone to really look up to. She reminds me of my mom a bit.

My tent is always covered w huge cockroaches at night. So gross. I woke up every hour to hear them (ticka-ticka) on my screen wanting in. I can see I will have to begrudgingly accept their presence while violently assaulting any that get in. Lck!

msl 10/13

~~scribbled out text~~

13th

Day 6 - Cindy

Sand ~~clean~~ nature, ^{walk} saw alligator,

Coffee is an excellent laxative. You can co-exist with 3" cockroaches as soon as you spend a few nights with some.

Learned to sleep in 95°F tent comfortably. We are gathered around a campfire, discussing what kinds of girls Jon likes.

Linda says "Who cares?!" Hg, I love that woman. We have established a healthy repertoire of anti-dumb-man. ☺

Nough said. Sarah and I tend to meet at the end of the day ~~and then we go to bed~~ I think Rose has

been thru a lot in life. She's been married 2x's, has 3 teenagers and is only 37. She's been beautiful and is a "recovering Catholic," is very grounded and is working towards her Ph.D. Barbara is pretty quiet but she has 3 daughters, youngest Emily who's 18, with us now.

Today we seined at low tide (5pm), caught another huge Southern stingray, 3' across. I pulled stinger, by the time we got her out of net she was tired and it took ~~us~~ a few minutes before she could swim again. I always feel kind of evil. If little fish fall out of seine, I can't help it, I have to run around picking them up and throwing back into ocean.

Sarah applied sunscreen to my back but streaked it. Now I have zebra stripes.

13th

Small white notebook, 2nd edition

16th

Day 7

"Do Our Own Thing" Day

Slept in... went for run to Nanny Goat Island, about 10 miles S. Crossed tidal river (swam across since current was gentle) and down to salt marsh boardwalk.

Saw a few people in from their boats on ocean. One guy walked by, said there were too many tourists, and left. Ha! There were only 3 people on beach! Got to end of island met 2 girls who gave us a lift back to camp. Did laundry and had BBQ chicken dinner w turtle chick as our honored guest!

1761

F#

Day 9 13th

Am

Left camp @ 11 to go for a walk along the marsh roads. Saw many birds: flycatchers, rufous-sided towhees, cardinals, wrens, boat-tailed grackles, egrets, a wood stork (rare!) great blue herons, cardinals, mockingbirds, red-winged blackbirds and pelicans. Saw a few alligator dens, many slides, a racoon and 2 deer. Returned to camp by 2, ate lunch, journaled on beach

4 PM

J.R. picked us up for an "island tour" in an actual all-terrain vehicle. Saw Hog Hammock up close and personal. Stopped in to get cokes! Then onto Reynolds dairy barn / theater and turkey fountain by the mansion. Incredible, absolute wealth and luxury in its flashiest form. Maintained by DNR? Rentable for \$125/person a night min of 15 people. Nutty! Saw "Chocolat" an old French settler area with tabby buildings. J.R. told us 15' alligator lives in pond by mansion. Bottom of pond is plated in 14K gold. Roads on Sapelo are mostly dirt/sand. Stopped into gift shop, lady there wrote book on heritage of Sapelo ex-slave descendants. Local crafts from Sapelo residents also available like sweetgrass baskets.

11:45 pm

~~Turtle~~ Turtle walk! We approached beach w lights out and signals understood. Crescent moon lit beach for 1st half → walked N then S, no turtles. Bummer. Next time we'll go a bit after high tide — they aren't always emerging then. Full moon could hinder sighting. Went to bed exhausted!

181 p 8

14th
Day 7 Friday

Turtle man, fish fry, caught shank
I cooked,

15th Sat.

stayed in camp

@ night turtle walk w Triplett

16th →

Mon. - 17th Nature walk on boards - mosquitos
body surfing on Nanny Goat
freshwater scining

18th - lunch at Caesar's
Mansion tour
turtle walk w girl

19th - Nanny Goat body surfing

14th Day F Friday

Turtle meat, fish oil, caught shark
I cooked

15th Sat.

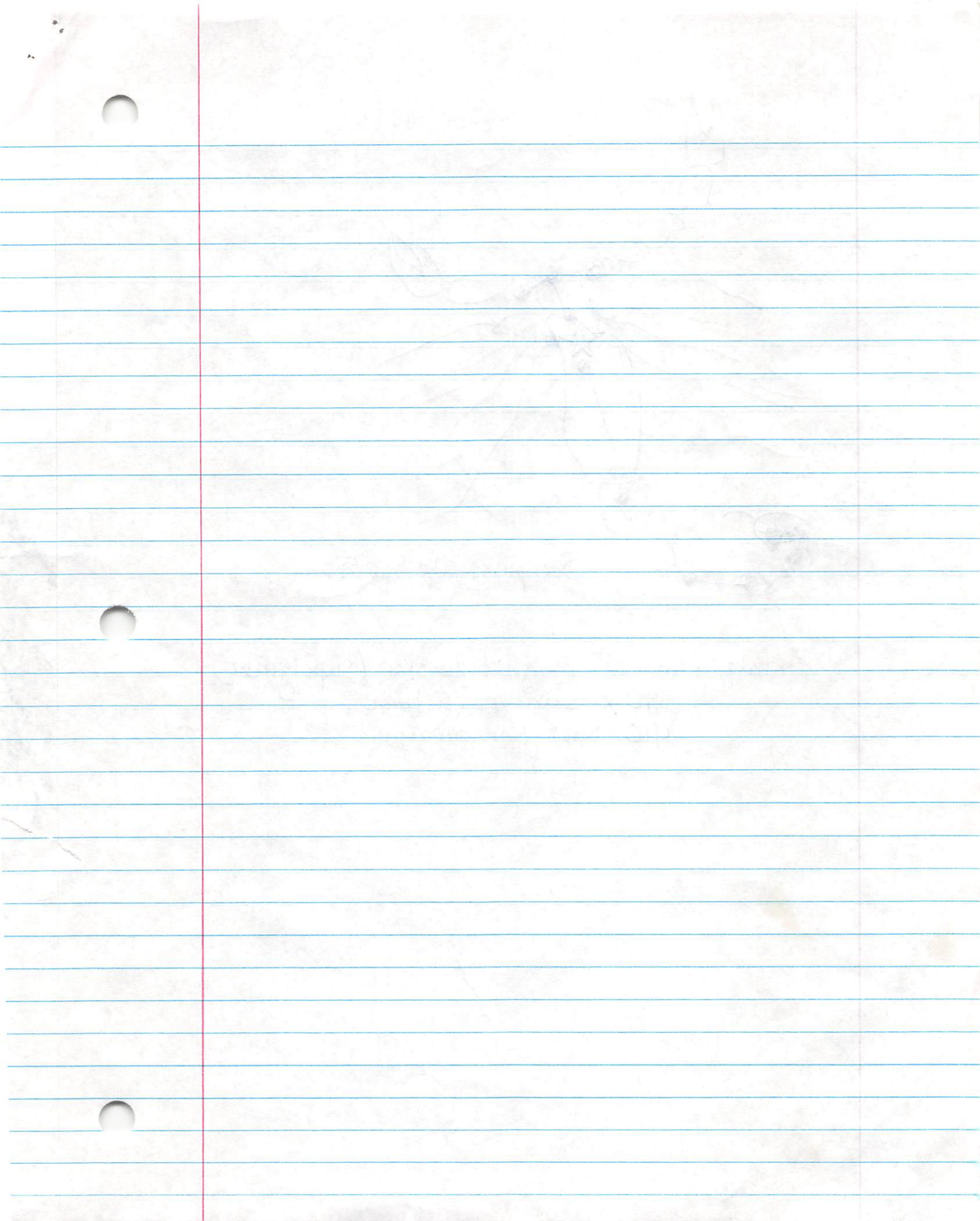
stayed in camp
to night turtle meat in Tripett

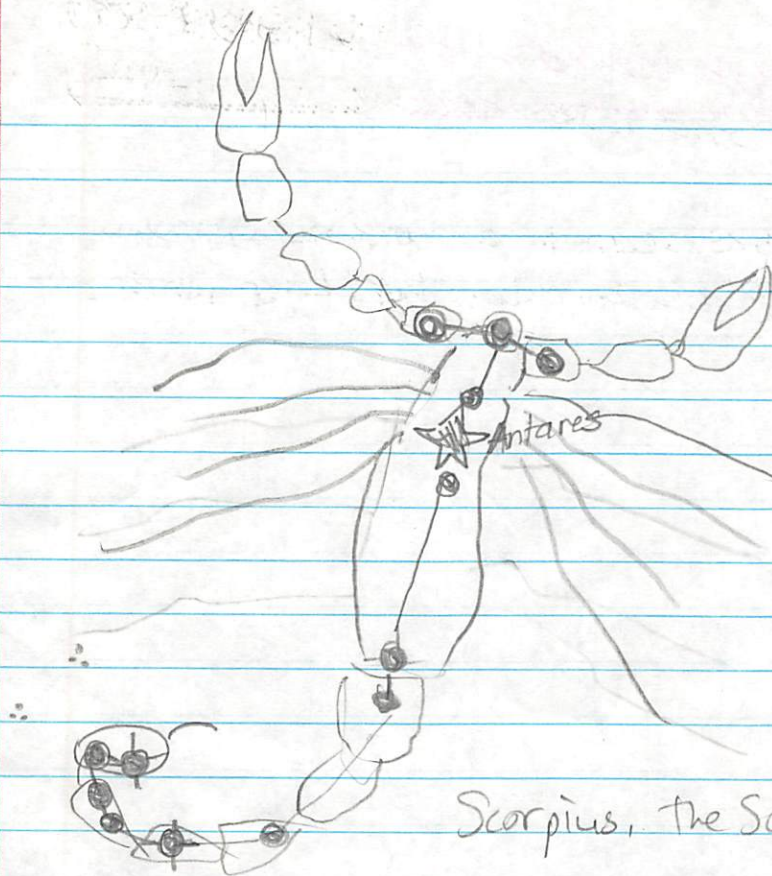
16th

Mon. - 17th
Turtle meat on boards - mosquitoes
boiling or burning
freshwater swimming

18th - Lunch at Cassin's
Mansion for
turtle meat in dish

19th - Normal coat boiling





Scorpius, the Scorpion

Antares - red 1st magnitude star (supergiant)
- 390 x sun's magnitude
410 light years away