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TESTUDINES

CARETTA CARETTA (Loggerhead). **PELAGIC MOVEMENT AND GROWTH**. This note reports the first confirmed movement of a non-headstarted *Caretta caretta* from the Atlantic into the Mediterranean Sea. The turtle was one of over 1200 sea turtles tagged in the waters around the Azores in a joint project of the University of Florida, USA, and the University of the Azores, Portugal. The turtle was tagged with a monel metal tag (style #681, National Band and Tag, Newport, Kentucky) on 14 July 1986, 80 km east of the island of Flores, Azores. Straight carapace length from center of nuchal scute to distal tip of the posterior marginal (SCL) was 17.0 cm. The turtle was recaptured on a drifting longline set for swordfish on 26 August 1991, 43 km from Licata, Agrigento, Sicily. Curved carapace length from center of nuchal scute to distal tip of the posterior marginal (CCL) was 42 cm. The turtle was observed by personnel of Porgetto Tartarughe, Italy, and released alive.

CCL (42 cm) was converted to SCL (36 cm) using the equation in Frazer and Ehrhart (1983. Marine Turtle Newsl. 24:4-5) and unpublished data (Bolten and Martins) for smaller class sizes. Thus, the turtle grew at a rate of 3.7 cm/yr during the 61-mo interval. This is the first reported growth increment for a non-headstarted pelagic-stage sea turtle and is much slower than reported for similar-sized loggerheads in benthic habitat in the southern Bahamas (Bjorndal and Bolter 1988. J. Herpetol. 22:480-482). The von Bertalanffy and logistic models presented for Florida loggerheads by Frazer and Ehrhart (1985. Copeia 1985:73-79) predict growth rates of 8.1 cm/yr and 2.6 cm/yr, respectively, for the same size interval. Our value is closer to that predicted by the logistic equation. Although the von Bertalanffy model has a better fit for growth of sea turtles on benthic foraging grounds, this model may not fit data for growth rates in the very different pelagic habitat (Bjorndal and Bolten 1988. Copeia 1988:555-564). Greater knowledge of growth in the pelagic habitat is critical for demographic studies.

The extent of movements of sea turtles into the Mediterranean is important for the development of management plans for the region. Large numbers of juvenile loggerheads are caught each year incidental to the long-line fisheries. Whether this take is supported entirely by juveniles from the declining Mediterranean nesting populations or is supplemented by the larger turtle populations in the Atlantic, has important implications for the survival outlook of the Mediterranean *Caretta* populations.

Other sea turtles that apparently move from the Atlantic to the Mediterranean include *Lepidochelys kempi* (Brongersma and Carr 1983. Proc. Koninklijke Nederlandse Akademie van Wetenschappen, C 86:445-454) and *Dermochelys coriacea* (Groombridge 1990. Marine turtles in the Mediterranean: distribution, population status, conservation. Council of Europe, Nat. and Environ. Ser. 48). Also, a headstarted *C. caretta* (raised in captivity for about a year before release off Padre Island, Texas, USA) has been recaptured in the Mediterranean (Manzella et al. 1988. Marine Turtle Newsl. 42:7). However, headstarted turtles often end up in unnatural sites (Taube 1992. Science 256:614-616), so their movements must be interpreted with caution.

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CLEMMYS INSCULPTA (Wood Turtle). **SIZE**. On 21 May 1984, an adult male *Clemmys insculpta* (RAS-251) was captured in Pontiac Co., Quebec. Measurements were CL=238 mm; PL=207mm; PW=109 mm. This specimen is presently being maintained by the author.

On 15 June 1985, another adult male was captured in the same area. Its measurements were CL=234.5 mm; CW=161.8 mm; PL=210.2 mm; PW=109.1 mm. This specimen was deposited at the Canadian Museum of Nature (NMC 26568). All measurements were taken by Dr. F. R. Cook, Curator of Herpetology, CMN. The first specimen exceeds and the second is equal to the maximum carapace length reported in Conant and Collins (1991. A Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians of Eastern and Central North America. 3rd ed. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, Massachusetts, 450 pp.) as 234 mm for this species.

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STERNOTHERUS ODORATUS (Stinkpot). **REPRODUCTION**. *Sternotherus odoratus* is reported to mate under water in the shallows of lakes at night or in the early morning hours (Ernst and Barbour 1989. Turtles of the World, Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C. 313 pp.). Mating adults have been observed to congregate, with up to thirty specimens being collected within a radius of 15 ft (Risley 1933. Pap. Michigan Acad. Sci., Arts Letters 17:685-711). Ernst and Barbour (*op. cit.*) stated that mating occurs throughout the year, with peaks in the spring and fall, and Carr (1952. Handbook of Turtles, Cornell Univ. Press, Ithaca, New York, 542 pp.) stated that copulation occurs from April until as late as October. Ernst (1989. J. Herpetol. 20(3):341-352), however, observed mating only from 15 April to 22 May. Here, we describe a pair of *S. odoratus* mating on land, late in the year, and in mid-afternoon.

On 15 October 1989 at 1500 h, at Crab Orchard Lake, Williamson Co., Illinois, we observed a pair of *S. odoratus* mating on the former lake bed in a partially isolated cove 0.2 km north of the west side boat launch (the water level of the lake had been lowered 1.3 m for renovations of the dam). The male had mounted the female when the turtles were first noticed. The female (CL=105.1 mm) was just out of the water with her posterior end near the water's edge, and the male's (CL=100.7 mm) hind legs were in the water. Ernst (*op. cit.*) described 12 pairs of mating *S. odoratus* and the male was always larger than the female. We collected, sexed, and released five other *S. odoratus* (three males, two females) in the shallows less than five meters away from the mating pair.

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