

ing reproductive season seem to corroborate this hypothesis.

Submitted by **LUCIANO M. VERDADE**, Departamento de Zootecnia/ESALQ, Universidade de São Paulo, C.P. 09 Piracicaba, São Paulo 13418-900, Brazil.

## TESTUDINES

**CHELYDRA SERPENTINA** (Common Snapping Turtle). **AGGRESSION.** There is an on-going debate about the existence of territoriality in the common snapping turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*). Some researchers have found extensive home range overlap among males (Galbraith et al. 1987. *Can. J. Zool.* 65:2623–2629), and no evidence of territoriality or aggression (Obbard and Brooks. 1981. *Copeia* 1981:630–637). Others believe that snapping turtles frequently exhibit intraspecific aggression by defending feeding areas or more simply their immediate surroundings (Kiviat 1980. *Trans. Northeast Sect. Wildl. Soc.* 37:158–168).

On 28 July 1996, we observed *Chelydra serpentina* biting at the sides of a turtle trap in Grafton Lake, Kejimikujik National Park, Nova Scotia, Canada. Based on their large size, we assumed that both turtles were adult males. For 10 min the turtles chewed at different parts of the trap; each apparently unaware of the other. Both turtles submerged and resurfaced periodically until, at one point they surfaced facing each other ca. 30–40 cm apart. At this point, there was a short (ca. 45 sec) but violent confrontation, with carapaces raised out of the water several times. At the fight's conclusion, one turtle remained near the trap and the second turtle surfaced ca. 40 m from the trap. On inspection the trap was found to contain a live common sucker (*Catostomus commersoni*).

This behavior was similar to an observation made the previous day while radio-tracking two adult males in another part of the lake. For over an hour, the two turtles moved closer to one another, until at one point they were 0.75 m apart. Subsequent tracking five min later revealed that one turtle was still at the site while the other had moved ca. 35 m away. Our unpublished data suggest that snapping turtles, during this time of day (1200 h), generally do not move long distances in such short periods of time. As a result, we suspect that this sudden movement was the result of a confrontation between the two turtles.

These two observations indicate that aggression between snapping turtles does occur. More data are needed before conclusions about the presence/absence of territoriality in this species can be made.

We thank the many participants in the Grafton Watershed Ecological Restoration Monitoring Project, and the staff of Kejimikujik National Park. Support was provided by the Ecosystem Monitoring Fund (Parks Canada) and the Acadia Centre for Wildlife and Conservation Biology.

Submitted by **DONNA D. HURLBURT**, **STEPHEN MOCKFORD**, and **THOMAS B. HERMAN**, Centre for Wildlife and Conservation Biology, Acadia University, Wolfville, Nova Scotia, Canada BOP 1X0; e-mail (TBH): tom.herman@acadiau.ca.

**CLEMMYS MUHLENBERGII** (Bog Turtle). **OVIPOSITION SITE.** Most *Clemmys muhlenbergii* nesting sites have been located within elevated sedge tussocks or sphagnum moss above the water line. However, documented oviposition sites also include the soft soil above springs, adjacent pastures, and the sides of railroad embankments (Ernst et al. 1994. *Turtles of the United States and Canada*. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, DC. 578 pp.). On 21 July 1997, a clutch of three eggs (length x width =

30.81 mm x 15.88 mm, 31.42 mm x 15.97 mm, 30.19 mm x 15.85 mm), presumed to be *C. muhlenbergii*, was found ca. 6 cm deep in the top of a rotten, unidentifiable, hardwood stump. The stump, which was partially covered by mosses and poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*), stood ca. 45 cm above the ground and was ca. 35 cm in diameter. All three eggs were collected and incubated at home by one of us (KMF). On 27 August 1997, one of the eggs hatched, confirming their identity as *C. muhlenbergii*. We believe this is the first reported use of a stump for nesting by *C. muhlenbergii*. The remaining two eggs never fully developed and began to rot. The surviving hatchling (30.19 mm CL, 34.41 mm CW; UGAMNH 44225 photo voucher) was released 28 March 1998 at the site of collection.

The collection site, Wolf Creek Bog (Chattahoochee National Forest, Union County, Georgia, USA), was first confirmed to be inhabited by *C. muhlenbergii* in 1979 (Hale and Harris 1980. *Herpetol. Rev.* 11:14). This bog site has been slowly succeeding to a more closed canopied hardwood forest. As a result, there is increasingly limited sedge and sphagnum moss areas in which to nest, potentially forcing *C. muhlenbergii* at this site to seek alternative oviposition areas. U.S. Forest Service personnel have begun management to reduce the hardwood encroachment and thus open up the canopy. This represents the first recorded nesting of *C. muhlenbergii* in Georgia.

We thank Jim and Cindy Wentworth of the U.S. Forest Service for their dedication to bog turtle conservation within the Chattahoochee National Forest.

Submitted by **KENNETH M. FAHEY**, 439 Pinewood Drive West, Dahlonega, Georgia 30533, USA, and **JOHN B. JENSEN**, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Nongame Endangered Wildlife Program, 116 Rum Creek Drive, Forsyth, Georgia 31029, USA (e-mail: john\_jensen@mail.dnr.state.ga.us).

**DERMOCHELYS CORIACEA** (Leatherback Sea Turtle). **ACCIDENTAL CAPTURE.** Records of *Dermochelys coriacea* on the Brazilian coast are rare (Bellini and Sanches 1998. *Marine Turtle Newsltr.* 79:22; Menezes 1972. *Arq. Ciênc. Mar.* 12:17–20; Moreno et al. 1994. *Anais do II Encontro Sobre Coordenação de Pesquisa e Manejo da Franciscana*. Ed. da FURG, Florianópolis, Brasil. 88 pp.). Two leatherback turtles were accidentally caught during fishery prospection near Saint Paul's Rocks, using a 28,000 m oceanic longline with 600 hooks baited with Brazilian sardines (*Sardinella brasiliensis*). A dead juvenile *D. coriacea* of undetermined sex was boarded on 18 October 1996. It measured 40 cm CCL (curved carapace length) and was caught at 180 m depth (00°46'S, 33°18'W). The specimen was photographed onboard and soon thrown overboard. A living adult (CCL = 180 cm) was caught on 19 October 1996. It was probably a female, based on the absence of a long tail, and was at 130 m depth (01°40'S, 33°36'W). The latter, while being boarded, showed a behavior similar to that described by Engrid et al. (1992. *Herpetol. Rev.* 23:70–71), swimming in wandering movements (zigzag) on its backside. Due to its great size, it could not be boarded, but was instead photographed in the water and released. Color slides of this turtle are on file in the Museu de História Natural, Universidade Estadual de Campinas (no catalog number). These are the northernmost records of the leatherback sea turtle in the Western South Atlantic. Apparently, sea turtle captures in this type of fishery are more common than reported. Artisanal fishermen from the Praia de Itapoã, Salvador, Bahia State (pers. comm. to C. L. S. Sampaio) and from several sites of southern Espírito Santo state (pers. comm. to J. L. Gasparini) report frequent captures of *D. coriacea*.