

Herpetol. Rev. 18:7–8) found a strong preference for eating mosquito larvae; one individual consumed 148 in 24 h. These results suggest that turtles could play a role in the control of mosquitoes on the island. They could also be contributing to nutrient cycling processes in the mangroves as they consume organic waste and dead animals such as crabs, as observed by one of us (Castaño, unpubl.). Continued studies may reveal additional items consumed by the species and seasonal and temporal changes in dietary preferences.

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**PHRYNOPS HILARII** (Hilaire's Side-necked Turtle). **REPRODUCTION.** A number of factors are known to influence the incubation time and size of chelonian neonates (Köhler 2005. Incubation of Reptile Eggs. Krieger Publ. Co., Malabar, Florida. 214 pp.). However, much reported data is based on artificially incubated eggs, where eggs are exposed to constant temperatures during the incubation period. Here I present data on the longest known incubation period of a *Phrynops hilarii* clutch in non-controlled environment.

A female *Phrynops hilarii* was found after it had been hit by a vehicle in a road in southern Rio Grande do Sul state, Brazil. The animal was still alive but later died in the laboratory. This female had a carapace length (CL) of 338 mm, plastron length of 299 mm, and a body mass of 3600 g. Upon necropsy, fourteen intact eggs were found in its oviducts, six in the right side and eight in the left side. Egg measurements showed low variability, both in diameter (greater dimension: mean =  $33.6 \pm 0.477$ , lesser: mean =  $32.0 \pm 0.350$ ) and weight (mean =  $20.5 \pm 0.489$  g). Total egg mass represented approximately 9% of the body mass of the female. Initially, egg viability was considered unlikely, and the eggs were placed in a closed jar and kept on a shelf exposed to ambient room temperatures. This room was heated during the coldest winter months, while in summer, air conditioning was turned on only during working hours in the laboratory.

Of the 14 eggs placed in the jar, 10 hatched successfully, one hatchling died during hatching, two eggs contained dead embryos in different stages of development, and one was classified as non-viable due to absence of visible embryonic development. Hatching was verified after a period of 418 days. Of the 10 successful hatchlings, CL of nine ranged between 41 and 42.6 mm, and one was notably smaller at CL 38.8 mm (N = 10; mean = 41.3; SD = 1.03; Min. = 38.8; Max. = 42.6). No abnormalities in scute pattern were observed. Incubation periods of 100–300 days have been reported for turtles in this genus, with  $\pm 150$  days being noted for captive-bred *P. hilarii* (Fabius 2004. Manouria 7[25]:28–38). Reports that this species might deposit eggs during two laying periods in fall and spring (March–May, September–December) with a single hatching period in late summer or fall suggests that *P. hilarii* embryos might enter a state of diapause under certain conditions (R. Vogt, pers. comm.; Fabius, *op. cit.*). This might explain the

survival of embryos under presumably stressful conditions and extended incubation period reported here.

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**TRACHEMYS SCRIPTA ELEGANS** (Red-eared Slider). **REPRODUCTION.** The natural range of *Trachemys scripta elegans* is centered in the south-central United States, from Illinois to the Gulf of Mexico. Because of its prominence in the international pet trade, the species now can be found over much of the United States, and its introduction has been documented throughout the world (Ernst et al. 1994. Turtles of the United States and Canada. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington. 578 pp.). There has been speculation as to whether and where introduced Red-eared Sliders can reproduce in the wild in California (Bury and Luckenbach 1976. Biol. Conserv. 10:1–14). Successful nesting or presumed breeding (i.e., gravid females) in northern California were reported by Bury and Luckenbach (*op. cit.*) at Clear Lake, by Spinks et al. (2003. Biol. Cons. 113:257–267) at the University of California, Davis, and by Fidenci (2006. Herpetol. Rev. 37:80) in the Mount Tamalpais Watershed, Marin Co. Here, we report additional evidence of reproduction in *T. s. elegans* in the wild in northern California.

On 27 April 2001, MPB and R. Corwin found a hatchling *T. s. elegans* in a fyke net set for salmonid surveys at Stony Creek, immediately upstream from its confluence with the Sacramento River, Glenn Co. This area is southeast of the city of Orland. The turtle was 41 mm CL (straight-line carapace length). On 31 May 2001, in a slough about one mile east of Stony Creek, GML captured a hatchling *T. s. elegans* (53 mm CL). In this same remote area, GML has captured, marked, and released 88 *T. s. elegans*, seven of which were <100 mm CL. Over the course of a two-year mark-recapture study in 2004 and 2005 on the eastern half of the Bufferlands in Elk Grove (city), Sacramento Co., LCP captured 240 individual *T. s. elegans*, 18 of which were <100 mm CL (smallest = 34.6 mm CL). On 17 June 2005, E. Meyer, W. Wegner, and D. Degross visited a pond on the north side of the Sacramento River, Redding (city), Shasta Co. Several adult *T. s. elegans* and Pacific Pond Turtles (*Actinemys marmorata*), the native turtle, were observed basking on logs in the pond. One adult male *T. s. elegans* (139 mm CL) was captured in a small turtle trap baited with canned sardines. One hatchling *T. s. elegans* (34.8 mm CL), of four observed basking on a log in the shallows, was captured with a dip net.

The observation of multiple hatchling and juvenile *T. s. elegans* reported here, along with previously cited reports, suggests that successful reproduction is occurring in the wild in northern California and that these young turtles were wild-bred and not released pets.

Stebbins (2003. Western Reptiles and Amphibians. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, Massachusetts. 533 pp.) noted that *T. s. elegans* has been introduced into California's Central Valley (Sacramento-San Joaquin drainages). This watershed encompasses a considerable proportion of lowland habitats and, until recently (see Fidenci, *op. cit.*), included all of the prior and present cases of