housed in an aquarium (110 × 39 × 40 cm) containing approximately 64 liters of water, using the focal animal method (Altmann 1974. Behaviour 49:227–267), during 30 min per specimen. All turtles were naturally infested by a turbellarian ectosymbiont *Temnocephala brevicornis* often associated with *H. maximiliani* (Damborenea and Cannon 2001. J. Nat. Hist. 35:1103–1118).

Grooming behavior was observed in all four specimens of *H. maximiliani*. This behavior resulted in removal of the ectosymbiont together with dead skin from the soft parts of the body, facilitated by the tomial edges of the turtle's jaws, in the axillary and inguinal pockets, sites of infestation of *T. brevicornis*.

The behavior most associated with removal of ectoparasites in freshwater turtles is aerial basking (Janzen et al. 1992. J. Herpetol. 26:217–221). Atmospheric or terrestrial basking is a common phenomenon in many species of freshwater turtles, and functions include elevation of body temperature (to enhance the capacity for activity, digestion, reproduction, vitamin D synthesis, and acceleration of egg development in adult females) and drying of the body surface to retard or remove fungi, algae, bacterial and ectoparasites (Cagle 1950. Ecol. Monogr. 20:31–54; Boyer 1965. Ecology 46:99–118; McAuliffe 1977. J. Parasitol. 63:580–581; Crawford et al. 1983. Ecology 64:989–999; Chessman 1987. Herpetologica 43:301–306; Janzen et al., *op. cit.*; Manning and Grigg 1997. Copeia 1997:579–584). However, basking has not been studied or reported in some taxa of freshwater turtles, and particularly, data on this behavior in some species of Pleurodira are scarce, being limited to observations of captive specimens (Miller 1979. Herpetologica 34:39–42). The Australian chelids *Chelodina expansa* and *C. longicollis* reportedly bask only occasionally (Webb 1978. Herpetologica 34:39–42).

H. maximiliani seldom leaves the water for basking (Souza 2004. Reptilia 40:47–51), thus grooming behavior could be an alternative strategy for removal of the ectosymbiont *T. brevicornis*. This behavior could aid a non-atmospherical basking turtle in keeping the skin in good condition and may be an adaptation to a highly aquatic mode of life (Legler, *op. cit.*). A relationship may exist between an almost completely aquatic mode of life, the absence of basking, and the occurrence of autogrooming in *C. expansa* and *Rheodytes* sp. (Legler and Georges, *op. cit.*). Grooming is common in captive *Rheodytes* sp. and *C. expansa* and serves to remove the cornified layer of the soft skin, wherever the head can reach (Legler and Georges, *op. cit.*). This report demonstrates the use of this behavior for removal of the ectosymbiont *T. brevicornis* in *H. maximiliani*.

This work was licensed by IBAMA (Process nº 02015.003546/04-11), and was performed under the principles adopted by COBEA (Colégio Brasileiro de Experimentação Animal), which were approved by the Committee of Ethics in Animal Experimentation (Pro-Rectory of Research) of the Universidade Federal de Juiz de Fora, in a meeting which took place on 04/12/2004 (Protocol nº 011/2005-CEA).

Submited by **IARA ALVES NOVELLI**, Pós-Graduação em Biologia Animal, Universidade Federal Rural do Rio de Janeiro, BR-465, Km 7, Seropédica, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 23890-000 (e-mail: iaranovelli27@gmail.com); **FABIANO MATOS VIEIRA**, Laboratório de Taxonomia e Ecologia de Helmintos, Departamento de Zoologia, Instituto de Ciências Biológicas, Universidade Federal de Juiz de Fora, Campus Universitário, Bairro Martelos, Juiz de Fora, MG, Brazil, 36036-330 (e-mail: fmatosvieira@gmail.com); and **BERNADETE MARIA DE SOUSA**, Laboratório de Herpetologia, Departamento de Zoologia, Instituto de Ciências Biológicas, Universidade Federal de Juiz de Fora, Campus Universitário, Bairro Martelos, Juiz de Fora, MG, Brazil, 36036-330 (e-mail: bernadete.sousa@ufjf.edu.br).

PHRYNOPS GEOFFROANUS (Geoffroy`s Side Necked Turtle). **NEST PREDATION**. There are apparently to date no published reports of predation on *Phrynops geoffroanus* nests in nature. Here we report *P. geoffroanus* nest predation by a teiid lizard, *Tupinambis teguixin*, on the Guaporé River on the border of Brazil and Bolivia. In July 2008, during seasonally falling water levels, we sought *P. geoffroanus* nests on the banks of the Guaporé River. From 600 to 1000 h daily we surveyed the river from the border region in Brazil (12.238ºS, 64.4637ºW; WGS84) to Versalles village in Bolivia (12.4396°S, 63.9271°W). The position of each nest was recorded by GPS and the total number of the eggs (predated and not predated) was also noted. Of the 39 nests found, only three were not predated by *Tupinambis teguxin*. Identification of the nest predator was confirmed by several methods: direct observation of the predation event, by the tracks made around the predated nest or characteristic marks made in the soil when the nest was excavated by the lizards, and/or the tooth marks on the egg shells remaining. *Tupinambis teguxin* was the only large carnivorous lizard seen active in the nesting area; tracks made were too large to be those of an *Ameiva,* another potential lizard nest predator indigenous to the area. This high predation rate may be related to the fact that as seasonal flood waters recede, *P. geoffroanus* is the first species to lay eggs on the emerging river banks. In this part of the Amazon, deforestation has increased recently due to land clearing for cattle ranching and illegal harvest of forest products, particularly lumber. Consequently this lizard is forced to live in the sparse riparian forest habitat, which may in turn affect the availability of its normal prey. Food may be difficult to find during high water; thus as soon as the water levels fall, *P. geoffroanus* eggs may offer the lizards an easily obtained resource.

High population densities and the efficient foraging behavior of *T. teguxin* may have significant consequences for survival of this turtle species on the Guaporé River. Further studies are needed on the effects of deforestation on this lizard's habits and turtle nest predation levels. *P. geoffroanus* is one of the few turtle species that is not widely consumed by humans in this region; consumption of its meat supposedly has caused an allergic reaction in some people, perhaps as a result of its consumption of toxic mushrooms which grow on floating logs and tree trunks in the flooded forest (Vogt 2008. Tartarugas da Amazônia. Grafica Biblos, Lima, Peru. 104 pp.). In addition, the bright orange color of this turtle's plastron suggests to some people that the meat is poisonous. Future studies should assess both the population status of this turtle species and the effects of habitat loss on the lizard species that may be its primary nest predator.

Submitted by **LARISSA SCHNEIDER** (e-mail: laribio@terra.com.br), **CAMILA R. FERRARA**, and **RICHARD C. VOGT** (e-mail: vogt@inpa.gov.br), Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia (INPA), Caixa Postal 478, CEP 69011-970, Manaus, Amazonas, Brazil.