The tail wagging greatly increased the turbidity of the water. We speculate that it made oxygen utilization extremely difficult except near the surface for potential prey such as amphibians, fish, and invertebrates, as well as physically dislodging them, thus increasing capture success by the alligator.

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TESTUDINES

CARETTA CARETTA (Loggerhead Sea Turtle). **Habitat.** On 1 October 1989, we identified a post-hatchling loggerhead (10-12 cm CL) captured at an artificial reef in the Gulf of Mexico, 15 km S of Pensacola, Florida (30°12'N, 87°14'W). The turtle may have followed a scuba diver to the surface from the 37 m deep reef, where it was repeatedly attacked, but not injured, by two sea gulls (*Larus atricilla*?) before its "rescue" (J. Ferguson, pers. comm.). We were unable to measure or weigh the animal, which was quickly released by the Florida Marine Patrol in Pensacola Pass (H. Gomez, pers. comm.). We found no evidence of tags or tag scars on the animal.

The usual habitat of post-hatchling loggerheads is in offshore oceanic waters (see Carr 1987. Conserv. Biol. 36(2):92-100). This is apparently the first report of a non-stranded, non-sargassum-associated post-hatchling in nearshore waters, and the first record of an "oceanic-stage" turtle associated with an artificial reef in the Gulf of Mexico. It is likely that this turtle was prematurely advected into coastal waters, and unlikely that it will survive seasonally cold water temperatures that occur in the northern Gulf.

In our opinion, post-hatchlings stranded or accidentally captured during late fall or winter in the northern Gulf of Mexico should be released offshore in or near boundary currents, such as the Gulf of Mexico Loop Current or its eddies, or held captive in appropriate facilities until juveniles (>20 cm CL) or the return of favorable surface water temperatures in March-April.

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EMYDOIDEA BLANDINGI (Blanding's Turtle). **Parasites.** On 28 July 1988, an *Emydoidea blandingi* was collected by hand, at the southeast end of Big Clear Lake, Arden, Frontenac Co., Ontario. This specimen had a CL of 143.65 mm, a CW of 107.55 mm, and was host to seven leeches. The leeches were deposited at the National Museum of Canada (NMC). Three of the leeches were *Placobdella parasitica* (NMC A 1989-0009), a commonly encountered turtle leech. The remaining four leeches were *Placobdella ornata* (NMC A 1989-0008). This is believed to be the first confirmed report of parasitic interaction between *P. ornata* and *E. blandingi*.

The capture site was a wide, shallow, and densely vegetated stream that flowed into the lake. The bottom substrate consisted of several feet of detritus. The air temperature was 32° C, and the water temperature was 31° C at 50 mm at time of capture. The turtle was released as part of a mark-recapture study.

I thank Jaqueline Madill, Assistant Curator, Vermes Section (NMC), for identifying the leeches.

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GRAPTEMYS VERSA (Texas Map Turtle). **Size Maximum and Diet.** McKinney (1987. Herp. Review 18(1):17) reported a maximum size of 171 mm CL for *Graptemys versa* and listed measurements for eight specimens all greater than the 127 mm CL reported by Conant (1975. A Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians of Eastern and Central North America. 2nd ed. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston. 429 pp.). Vogt (1981. Cat. Amer. Amphib. Rept. 280.1-280.2), however, previously had reported a maximum size of 183 mm CL.

On 3 July 1984 we collected a female *Graptemys versa* (TCWC 62676) in the San Saba River at the Schleicher-Menard county line, Texas, larger than any previously published record. From this turtle the following straight-line measurements were recorded: carapace length = 214 mm; carapace width = 154 mm; plastron length = 188 mm; plastron width = 125 mm; head length = 67 mm; head width = 40 mm. Head measurements are reported because this individual exhibits megacephaly, possibly associated with a diet of gastropods, shells of which were present in feces. This is the first report of diet for wild individuals of this species. The project for which this specimen was collected was funded by the Texas Agricultural Extension Station.

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MALACOCHERSUS TORNIERI (Pancake Tortoise). **BEHAVIOR.** The power used in the righting movements of pleurodiran and most cryptodiran chelonians is transmitted by the head and neck. None of the testudinines with a convex carapace can right themselves without the head touching the substrate. *Malacochersus tornieri* differs from most testudinines in that it has the least convex carapace; this species can right itself without using the head. It also differs from other chelonians in that the power for righting activity is transmitted by the forelimb. This behavior was observed in eight specimens imported from Tanzania. It is speculated that *Malacochersus* was derived from ancestral testudinines which possessed a convex carapace, and the ability to right using the forelimb is a secondarily derived characteristic.

Submitted by **RIOSUKE AOKI**, Uwamachi 4-59, Yokosuka 238, JAPAN ●

SAURIA

LEIOCEPHALUS SEMILINEATUS (NCN). **Parasitism.** Greve and Powell (1989. J. Parasitol. 75:677-679) and Powell et al. (1990. J. Helminthol. Soc. Washington 57:75-77) described the nematode parasite *Skrjabinoptera leiocephalorum* (Spirurida: Physalopteridae) and discussed its occurrence in *Leiocephalus schreibersi* and *L. barahonensis* from Hispaniola. Stomachs of sympatric lizards, including *L. semilineatus*, were also