

TWO ALLIGATOR SNAPPERS, *MACROCLEMYS TEMMINCKI*, FROM SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

EDWIN C. GALBREATH
Southern Illinois University, Carbondale

Recorded occurrences of *Macroclemys temmincki*, the Alligator Snapper Turtle, in southern Illinois are rare. I here record two occurrences and consider their significance.

One turtle was obtained by James Gillahan, Southern Illinois University Museum. The pertinent data are as follows: female, preserved as a skeleton, No. 0-303, Zool. Dept. Coll., SIU; collected in Dutch Creek, four miles south of Jonesboro, Union County, Illinois, last week of June, 1959; weight, 39 lbs., length of carapace, 42.5 cm; width of carapace, 34 cm; height of carapace, 14 cm; and length of plastron, 31.5 cm. During the night of July 20-21 one egg was laid; on July 21 the specimen was killed.

In preparing the skeleton 32 eggs were found, 16 in the right oviduct, 15 in the left and one in the urogenital sinus. The shells of oviducal eggs were firm and like a fragile ping-pong ball. The egg in the urogenital sinus had a greenish stain on part of the surface and was partially so hardened that it could not be indented by pressure of thumb and finger. The egg laid before the specimen was preserved had a similarly hard shell and a mineralized appearance rather than the parchment-like appearance of the oviducal eggs. The largest diameters found in five measurements of the nearly spherical eggs were: 30.2 mm(1), 34.2 mm(2), 34.3 mm(1), 34.7 to 36.2 mm(28), and 36.5 mm(1), aver-

age 35.2 mm. The ovaries contained 11 ova 18-20 mm in diameter, 20 ova of 8-10 mm, and numerous smaller ova. The specimen is of interest in that it is, to my knowledge, the first record for this latitude of a female *Macroclemys* ready for oviposition.

The second turtle, owned by Jesse Grammer of Grand Tower, Illinois, was captured June 24, 1960 in the Big Muddy River, 7.5 miles from its junction with the Mississippi River. This specimen, while yet entangled in a net, was weighed by its captors on a set of platform scales. Subsequent weighing of the net yielded a weight for this turtle of 150 pounds. My examination of the specimen on the following day left no doubt that 150 pounds was approximately correct. Measurements taken at this time were as follows: length of carapace, 68 cm; breadth of carapace, 49.5 cm; circumference of head, 68 cm. This specimen is of interest because it is apparently the largest recorded for the upper Mississippi River Valley.

I would like to take this opportunity to point out that the 96 lb. *Macroclemys*, "... from Murphysboro (Jackson County) on the Big Muddy River." reported by Cahn (1937, p. 28) is now preserved as No. 0-132 in the Zoology Department Collection at Southern Illinois University. Contrary to Cahn's report, Miss Hilda Stein of this institution states that the specimen was

collected at a locality seven miles east of Murphysboro in Crab Orchard Creek, a tributary of the Big Muddy River.

LITERATURE CITED

CAHN, A. 1937. The turtles of Illinois. Illinois Biol. Mono., XVI, No. 1-2, pp. 218.

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