

TRACHEMYS SCRIPTA CATASPILA (Huastecan Slider). **REPRODUCTION.** A gravid female *Trachemys scripta cataspila* was captured southeast of Rancho Nuevo, Municipio de Aldama, Tamaulipas, Mexico (23° 11' N, 97° 47' W) on 24 June 1981. The female had straight, mid-line lengths of 224 mm (carapace) and 205 mm (plastron), and a mass of approximately 1800 g. On 1 July, oxytocin injections totalling 1.4 cc (20 I.U./cc) were administered over a three hour period according to procedures modified from those of Ewert and Legler (1978, *Herpetologica* 34: 314-318). A parchment-shelled, ovoid egg was deposited after three hours and 40 minutes, followed by a second egg 12 minutes later. Repeated palpation between injections indicated that both eggs had originated in the left oviduct, and that at least one more egg was low in the right oviduct. However, a final injection of 0.2 cc oxytocin 13 minutes later failed to induce further oviposition. Measurements for these eggs were 41.7 X 26.5 mm, 16.92 g, and 43.6 X 27.3 mm, 18.85 g. Due to desiccation during incubation, the eggs did not develop. The female was subsequently released.

On 9 July 1981, a hatchling *T. s. cataspila* was found freshly killed less than 300 meters east of the site where the aforementioned gravid female was captured. The hatchling was in good condition, with the following dimensions: straight, mid-line carapace length = 39.6 mm, straight, mid-line plastron length = 35.2 mm, carapace width at marginals 5-6 = 35.9 mm, minimum bridge length = 11.5 mm, and maximum shell depth = 15.7 mm. The specimen retained unabsorbed yolk and was presumed to have recently hatched. It was found ca. 50 m from a permanent stream where adults had often been seen basking and surfacing. Hatchling turtles were observed in this same stream on 9, 11, and 12 July, 1981.

These observations provide natural emergence data. Assuming an incubation period of two to three months (similar to other subspecies of *T. scripta*) the eggs from which these hatchlings emerged were likely deposited in April or May. Together with the gravid female, this suggests a nesting season which lasts from April until late June. This estimated nesting season falls within the range given by Rosado (1967, *Intl. Turt. and Tort. Soc. J.* 1(3):16-19,42) for *T. s. venusta*, the closest occurring subspecies of *T. scripta* to the south.

We have used the vernacular name Huastecan slider in recognition of the coincidental range of *T. s. cataspila* with the pre-Columbian Huastec Indian culture. The hatchling will be deposited in the National Museum of Natural History (USNM). We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of Pat Burchfield, and also thank the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Mexico's Instituto Nacional de Pesca for the opportunity to have worked at Rancho Nuevo.

Submitted by **RODERIC B. MAST**, World Wildlife Fund, 1601 Connecticut Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20009, and **JOHN L. CARR**, Department of Zoology, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois 62901, U.S.A. ●