

246) reported a mean clutch size of 6.7 (N = 14) for a population of *M. t. tequesta* on the Atlantic coast of Florida. The present findings in Connecticut provide further evidence that the diamond-back terrapin produces larger average clutch sizes in the northern part of its range.

Field work was performed by Matthew Aresco, Marcy Klattenberg, and Beth Lapin. This study was supported by a grant from the Phillips Petroleum Environmental Partnership (PEP).

Submitted by **MATTHEW J. ARESKO**, Department of Zoology and Wildlife Science, Auburn University, Alabama 36849-5414, USA.

MALACLEMYS TERRAPIN TERRAPIN (Northern Diamond-back Terrapin). **REPRODUCTION** and **NEST PREDATION**. Information on clutch size and rate of nest predation of northern diamondback terrapins along the Connecticut and New York coasts of Long Island Sound has been limited to infrequent observations of small samples of isolated individuals. Klemens (1993. Amphibians and Reptiles of Connecticut and Adjacent Regions. State Geol. Nat. Hist. Surv. Connecticut Bull. 112:1-318) reported a diamondback terrapin collected from Fairfield, Connecticut, USA containing 12 eggs, a nest in Westport, Connecticut containing 13 eggs, three clutches in Rye, New York containing 8, 11, and 15 eggs, and eleven clutches from the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, New York with a mean clutch size of 14.9 eggs.

During a population study of *Malaclemys terrapin terrapin* in 1994, a relatively large nesting site was discovered adjacent to a tidal creek along the Neck River in Madison, Connecticut. The nests were concentrated in a flat, sandy area (30 x 100 m) approximately 10 m from the creek. Sparse vegetative cover consisted of several bayberry bushes (*Myrica pennsylvanica*), poison ivy (*Rhus radicans*), and beach grass (*Ammophila breviligulata*). The area was bordered by a large expanse of *Spartina* salt marsh. Ten female *M. t. terrapin* were captured and measured during the 1993-1994 nesting seasons [mean carapace length (SLC) = 183.1 mm; SD = 7.43, mean plastron length (SLP) = 164.6 mm; SD = 7.14]. Maximum nesting activity was observed at high tide during the early daylight hours of 1-5 July 1994. From 1-31 July 1994, 33 nests were located. Clutch sizes were determined by excavating nests and counting eggs, and counting shells from nests opened by predators. Clutches ranged from 4 to 16 eggs with a mean clutch size of 9.6 (N = 33; SD = 3.58). Predators destroyed the entire clutch in each of the 33 nests (316 eggs). Numerous footprints throughout the area and bite patterns in the egg shells suggested that raccoons (*Procyon lotor*) were the only predators. They exhumed all eggs from each nest, consumed the contents, and discarded the shells within a few centimeters of the nest hole, often in a neat pile.

The observed mean clutch size (mean = 9.6) of this Connecticut population is similar to the mean clutch size (mean = 9.2, N = 237) reported by Burger (1977. Am. Midl. Nat. 97: 444-464) in a two-year study of a population of *M. t. terrapin* along the southern coast of New Jersey. Clutch sizes have been reported to be slightly lower in the southern subspecies. Hildebrand (1932. Zoologica. 9:551-563) noted that the "usual number" of eggs laid at one time by *M. t. centrata* x *M. t. terrapin* in captivity was eight. Burns and Williams (1972. J. Herpetol. 6:238-239) found that captive *M. t. pileata* produced a mean clutch size of 8.5 (N = 11) in Louisiana. Seigel (1980. Trans. Kansas Acad. Sci. 83:239-