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Mike Ewert goes on to say that he has been breeding Melanochelys trijuga since 1977. "As adults I have 2 (originally 3) coronata females, 2 functional coronata males, 3 thermalis females and 1 (plus 1 nearly mature) thermalis male. From these collectively I have obtained nearly 160 eggs over the years with clutches per female varying from 1 to 6 annually (usually 3 clutches/year). Most of the egg production occurs from October to March which I understand corresponds to the natural season. One thermalis female, fresh from a habbiest in Dayton Ohio, produced 20 eggs (clutches of 3-5 eggs) in one season (34% of her body weight) and every one hatched. The first several clutches of coronata eggs were not fertilized, and subsequent viability of fertile eggs has been lower, but over half of the fertilized eggs have hatched. Incubation periods range from 77 days in thermalis eggs at constant 30C to 272 days in a coronata egg at constant 25 C. Hybrids (coronata male X thermalis female) would key out as trijuga trijuga; the head has creamy yellow to pale pinkish vermiculations. At present the laboratory contains assorted sizes of small and baby trijuga-- 33 coronata, 23 thermalis and 16 hybrids. There are 14 eggs incubating, and 3 females gravid.

MARINE TURTLES IN ANDHRA PRADESH

Andhra Pradesh, the 277,000 km² state on the east coast bordering Orissa (north) and Tamil Nadu (south) has an approximately 970 km long coastline with a generally sandy bottom. Following recommendations made by the Government of India/FAO/UNDP project (FAO 1974, 1975), the Forest Department in Orissa initiated research and conservation programs for the Pacific ridley (Lepidochelys olivacea) at the rookery at Gahirmatha in the Bhitarkanika wildlife Sanctuary. Lazell (1980) reviewed developments regarding marine turtle work in India and mentions that "there is a burgeoning and extremely timely increase in research activity with respect to marine turtles in India and adjacent islands."

In Andhra Pradesh at present only very scattered and unconfirmed reports are available regarding nesting beaches and species occurring there. Apparently there is a proposal to survey the coastline in winter 1983 to determine the current status of sea turtles, and confirm fragmentary reports of nesting areas.

The common species, particularly in the northern half of the state, is the ridley (Kar and Bhaskar, 1982). While local fishermen using catamarans (tied log craft) catch ridleys incidentally during October to February, the proliferation of mechanised trawlers was probably responsible for the large catch in the '78-'79 season (Kar and Bhaskar, 1982). No substantial information is available on nesting records of leatherbacks (Dermochelys coriacea) but a female leatherback was killed during May 1979 near Visakhapatnam while attempting to nest (Dutt, 1979). The state owned Indira Gandhi Zoological Park at Visakhapatnam, Waltair,

In November 1979 Prof. S. Dutt of Andhra University informed me that a female hawksbill brought by a fisherman was reared by the Marine Sciences department for a few days then released into the ocean. B.C. Choudhury is collecting information on nesting in the Godavari River mouth and the Krishna and Godavari deltas, and has confirmed that nesting occurs on the Orissa/Andhra border. There may be important arribada beaches particularly in the deltas which hold large mangrove tracts. This area, which comes within the Coringa Reserve Forest, was declared a sanctuary in July 1978, for the saltwater crocodile, Crocodylus porosus (Bustard and Choudhury, 1980).

The ridley nesting season in Andhra is from October to May. (Year round nesting of ridleys has been reported by Kar, 1980, 1982, and Kar and Bhaskar, 1982, from Gahirmatha in Orissa. Ridley nesting has been reported during June in the Gulf of Katch (Bhaskar, 1978); and from January to March on the Orissa coast (Annon, 1979); and at Visakhapatnam (Dutt, 1979).

In Telegu, sea turtle eggs are known as 'gullu' and the adults are called 'Samudram Thalbelu'; samudram turtle and is the general name for all species.

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RANGE EXTENSION FOR THE SPOTTED POND TURTLE Geoclemys hamiltoni.

On a visit to Assam last year, Stanley and Belinda Bredeen visited the Kaziranga National Park where they photographed a hardshell turtle caught moving in short grass not far from one of the numerous 'jheels' (ponds). These slides were sent to the Snake Park and were identified to be Geoclemys hamiltoni, the spotted pond turtle which has hitherto been unreported from this area. This was further confirmed while examining specimens of this species at the Zoological Survey of India in Calcutta (specimen no. 18339) collected from Sonapur area in Kamrup district of Assam.

According to Smith (1931), the locality for this turtle is recorded as from Sind to Bengal in Northern India. Pritchard (1979) states that this species is known from the Ganges and Indus river systems in India and Pakistan.

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