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CAPTIVE REARING OF HATCHLINGS OF OLIVE RIDLEY LEPIDOCHELYS
OLIVACEA AT POINT CALIMERE, TAMIL NADU

ABSTRACT

The growth of hatchlings of olive ridley
Lepidochelys olivacea has been studied from emergence
to five months under captive conditions. The morpho-
metric characters were studied during growth. Internal
anatomy confirmed that there is no indication of
development of sex organs. Sexes could not be identified
externally.

INTRODUCTION

The growth of olive ridley Lepidochelys olivacea in captivity
has been reported by a few authors (Deraniyagala, 1939; Whitaker,
1979; Rajagopalan, 1984). The present paper reports on the growth
of L. olivacea under captivity conditions for a period of five
months.

The authors express their sincere thanks to the chief wild
life warden, Forest department, Government of Tamil Nadu for the
implementation of the scheme at Point Calimere, Thanjavur District.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

A batch of 102 emerged hatchlings were collected from the
hatchery at Point Calimere, Thanjavur district on the east coast
of India. For the first three days, hatchlings were fed with hen's