stage are lacking. In many studies on reptiles such difficulties are believed avoided by considering the relative size of single or multiple groups of unit characters. Most often this approach is essentially a univariate characterization, expressed as a ratio in which one variable is considered independent of the other. In many cases this independence is improperly assumed; in others it is difficult to establish. Statistically it is considered valid only if the variances of the two variables are similar (Kermock and Holdon 1950; *et al.*). To establish the best possible discrimination technique, a number of characters were analyzed by ratios, log-ratios, and actual measurements. The results of the comparative analysis clearly showed that log-ratio and simple ratio comparisons are less discriminatory than actual measurements in adults (see Tables 13-14). Three major types of statistical analyses based on actual measurements are employed in this paper: (1) univariate characterization, establishing the mean and standard deviation of all characters analyzed, (2) multivariate characterization of a number of differently combined sets of 36 variables on the shell, and (3) linear discrimination by means of the BIOMED 005 technique (Kendall 1951). Details of analyses will be found in specific sections below.

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