

was lying on his carapace and was being dragged slowly by the female. When disturbed they separated and began to burrow rapidly into the mud. Three other turtles were foraging within 5 m of the copulating pair. Two of these turtles, a male and a female, were examined; the third escaped.

On 20 October 1967 at 11:30 AM in marsh 8, a pair of marked *T. coahuila* was copulating in water ca. 10 cm deep. The male made rapid movements above the submerged female. Water temperature was 29.2°C, and air approximately 23.0°C. A month later, on 21 November, another pair of marked individuals was copulating in shallow water of a localized spring overflow among *Distichlis* grass near marsh 5 at 2:30 PM. Air temperature was approximately 29°C. The animals were discovered after I heard their shells striking sharply together. The male was on his back immediately behind the female.

Cahn and Conder (1932) and Evans (1953, 1968) described copulation in captive *T. carolina* in which the hind legs of the male were inserted between the plastron and carapace of the female and were held tightly in place. Secured by the hind legs of the female, the male leans back and effects coitus. Legler (1960b) states that coitus of *T. carolina* differs from that of *T. ornata* in the position of the male's legs. It seems necessary for male *Terrapene* to tilt backward to achieve effective copulation, perhaps because of their relatively short tails and high-domed shells.

Legler, in Webb et al. (1963), noted that a female *T. coahuila* was drowned by a male during mating in an aquarium. Females probably rarely drown while mating in the shallow water of marshes, but may do so in the deeper water of sinkholes or pools. Few turtles were seen in such habitats in the study area, and no mating turtles were noted in pools along the Río Mesquites (Fig. 6).

Mating in *T. carolina* and *T. ornata* takes place in the spring after emergence from hibernation and less frequently in the fall prior to hibernation (Ewing 1933, 1935; Allard 1935; Rosenberger 1936). It has been reported to occur sporadically throughout the season of activity, approximately from April to October in Washington, D.C. for *T. c. carolina* (Allard 1935, 1949), and from mid-April to late October for *T. o. ornata* in Kansas (Legler 1960b). Penn and Pottharst (1940) noted that *T. carolina major* in New Orleans, La. mated most often after a rain or when temperatures were between 21.1° and 26.7°C. Twice mating occurred in water.

The records of November and December matings by *T. coahuila* in nature suggest extended, perhaps nearly year-round, sexual activity of at least part of the population. Studies of captive and wild *T. coahuila*