

after a period of postovulatory summer growth (Ernst 1971a). The ovarian cycle of *T. ornata* (Legler 1960b) is similar to that of *T. carolina*. Ovaries weighed most in March and April prior to initial ovulation during May and June; an estimated 33% of females were capable of a second ovulation in July. The cycle began in late summer, ovarian weights increasing in October before hibernation.

Essentially the same timing occurs in ovarian cycles of northern temperate aquatic turtles that have been studied (*Chrysemys picta*, Powell 1967; Gibbons 1968c; Ernst 1971a; *Sternotherus odoratus*, Risley 1933). Moll and Legler (1971) studied the ovarian cycle of a tropical aquatic species, *Pseudemys scripta*, in Panamá and found that ovulation occurred in the first half of the calendar year (December to May), and oviposition was completed by August. Follicles began to enlarge again in the last half of the year following a quiescent period in July and August.

Except for a several-month period of interruption imposed by cold weather and resulting hibernation in northern species, similar patterns of timing occur in temperate as well as certain tropical emydid turtle species known to date. In the Cuatro Ciénegas basin, low temperatures during an estimated 3-month period from December through February (see "Seasonal Activity") may inactivate box turtles. Although the *T. coahuila* population apparently does not undergo any sustained period of hibernation, cool weather probably delays completion of follicular enlargement and ovulation until around April. Ovulation can seemingly continue into August and oviposition into early September (see below). The ovarian cycle of *T. coahuila* appears to be intermediate between the lengthy cycle of tropical species and the shorter cycle of northern species compressed by cool weather.

REPRODUCTIVE POTENTIAL.—Studies of 16 female *T. coahuila* (6 with large preovulatory follicles, 7 with corpora lutea or enlarged follicles or both, and 3 with oviducal eggs or enlarged follicles or both) representing 23 potential clutches indicate that complements of 2 or 3 eggs are produced most frequently (Fig. 8), with an over-all mean clutch size of 2.3 (range 1 to 4).

Mean clutch size for *T. c. carolina* near Washington, D.C., has been reported as 4.2, 3.0, and 3.6 eggs (Ewing 1933, 1935; Allard 1935). Altland (1951) recorded 2 to 5 eggs in *T. c. carolina* from Pennsylvania and Maryland. Legler (1960b) found 2 to 8 eggs (mean 4.7) in 23 clutches of *T. o. ornata* in Kansas. These data indicate that *T. c. carolina* and *T. o. ornata* living at more northern latitudes have higher average clutch sizes than does the southern *T. coahuila*. Tinkle (1961) gave a mean of 2.2 eggs in southern and 4.6 eggs in northern *Sterno-*