

in an intermediate period may, as mentioned earlier, influence this conclusion. The six females (35% of July-August sample) believed capable of depositing third clutches contained from 1 to 3 preovulatory follicles (mean 1.7).

Multiple clutches in turtles are generally known (Legler 1960b). *Chrysemys picta* apparently produce two similar-sized clutches annually in Michigan (Gibbons 1968c), but only one in Pennsylvania (Ernst 1971a). Tropical *Pseudemys scripta* produce up to six clutches per season (Moll and Legler 1971). Approximately 33% of female *T. o. ornata* in Kansas produced two clutches of eggs in the same season; first clutches averaged 4.7 eggs, second clutches 3.5 (Legler 1960b). Clutch sizes in *T. coahuila* decrease from a mean of 2.7 eggs in the first clutch to 2.4 in the second and 1.7 in the third.

Clutch sizes in turtles are correlated with the size of the female (Cagle 1944b, 1950; Einem 1956; Legler 1960b; Tinkle 1961; Moll and Legler 1971). Although variable, in 12 *T. coahuila* with 13 potential clutches determined by counts of enlarged preovulatory follicles, 5 of 8 females between 90 and 100 mm in carapace length would have laid two eggs; 2 of 3 females 100 to 110 mm, three eggs; and 1 of 2 females over 110 mm, four eggs. There was also a direct correlation between carapace length and clutch size in the three females containing oviducal eggs (see below).

Reproductive potential can be estimated by counting the number of enlarged follicles that could be ovulated in one season and adding to this the number of oviducal eggs or corpora lutea, or both (Tinkle 1961). Tinkle (1961) noted the difficulty in calculating the reproductive potential in turtles in which a new ovarian cycle may begin late in the season, resulting in enlarged follicles that may not be ovulated until the following season, and in which more than one clutch per year may be produced. These phenomena are known to occur in *T. carolina* and *T. ornata* (Altland 1951; Legler 1960b), and in *T. coahuila*. Tinkle (1961) states that "counts of follicles, lutea, and eggs will give an estimate of the maximum egg production . . . but the actual production may be much lower." The maximum annual reproductive capacity of *T. coahuila* can amount to 11 eggs (maximum of 4 eggs in the first two clutches and 3 eggs (see below).

Several difficulties in using this method for *T. coahuila* were apparent: (1) that all the females collected in April had developed a full complement of potential ovulatory follicles could not be determined accurately; (2) the probable rapid disappearance of corpora lutea made it impossible to determine whether some postreproductive females had already ovulated, and, if so, how many eggs they had laid; and (3) some