

ment"); on 2 April a small fire was burning near the study area, and Nickerson saw a large fire, estimated to have burned "many thousands of square meters," in the east-central region of the basin.

Burn scars on the carapace of *T. coahuila* usually covered between one-fourth and one-half of the surface and consisted of rough-textured, regenerated epidermis, recently-exposed underlying bone, or raised patches of dead bone sloughing from an old wound. Legler (1960b) described worn patches of enamel-like, shiny bone during shell regeneration in burned *T. ornata*. Similar areas of exposed bone were on five of seven burned specimens of *T. coahuila*. The worst burn injury recorded was in a subadult male (ASU 5854) collected in July 1965 near the study area. All epidermal scutes of the carapace had been burned away, and the exposed bone was smooth, polished, and lacking noticeable sutures. The epidermis of most of the marginal scutes was loose and peeling away. Despite its injury the turtle appeared healthy, and its stomach contained food.

Amputations and some carapace scars probably result from attacks by predators. Four of five adults had one hind limb missing, and the other lacked its right foreleg. A post-hatchling (ASU 8000) lacked most of its right hind foot and the right posterior portion of its carapace was gouged away. Four individuals had long shallow gashes through the epidermis of the shell that may have been inflicted by some large predator. One male had a 4-cm gash on the second left lateral scute, and several small pock-like scars, possibly tooth marks, on the carapace and plastron. In addition, the right hind leg was missing. The coyote, *Canis latrans*, could inflict wounds of this nature and possibly succeed in preying on some turtles. They are not common diurnally in the region. Only one was seen crossing the study area during the summer of 1965. Minckley (1966) described a coyote catching a large *Pseudemys scripta taylori* in a shallow lake (Laguna Grande) in the Cuatro Ciénegas basin, and found a live *T. coahuila* that was thought to have been attacked and chewed at the same locality.

Coahuilan box turtles are extremely alert while foraging and, in addition to protective coloration, seem to rely considerably on rapid movement and escape for survival. Disturbing a foraging turtle usually made it stop and raise its head, and it then remained motionless for several minutes. Another movement by the intruder usually made the turtle withdraw its head and limbs into the shell and remain motionless. Not infrequently a turtle moved away rapidly and burrowed into the mud. Some escaping individuals thrust themselves so vigorously into the mud that the rear of the shell and hind legs tilted upward at an angle.