

When *T. coahuila* were handled in the field, they all pulled the lobes of the plastron tightly against the carapace and remained closed until left undisturbed for several minutes. There was no variation in this reaction. Nichols (1939b) and Legler (1960b) have noted that some *T. c. carolina* and *T. o. ornata* struggle to escape while handled, whereas others close their shells and remain passive.

#### THERMAL RELATIONSHIPS

Cloacal temperatures of *T. coahuila* captured in the field were recorded with a Schultheis quick-recording mercury thermometer graduated in 0.2°C divisions. Even after several minutes of handling, cloacal temperatures did not change noticeably and so were not apparently affected by conduction of heat from my hand to the animal's body. Fitch (1956) noted this in recording body temperatures of small amphibians and reptiles.

Environmental temperatures recorded were: (1) water temperature at a depth of 1 to 2 cm at the site of capture (measured immediately after obtaining the cloacal temperature); (2) air temperature measured with a dry thermometer approximately 50 cm above the substrate near the site of capture, with the thermometer bulb shaded from the sun; and, when applicable, (3) mud substrate temperature beneath the water at the capture location.

Terminology follows Cowles and Bogert (1944) and Brattstrom (1965) for the voluntary minimum and maximum, normal activity range, and preferred or optimum temperature. The optimum body temperature is, in practice, the mean body temperature within the normal activity range; the voluntary minimum and maximum are, in practice, the lowest and highest body temperatures, respectively, recorded for free, active animals (Brattstrom 1965).

In the field 254 cloacal temperatures were secured. Almost 90% were accompanied by a simultaneous reading from the water in which a turtle was found. The remaining temperatures were from animals in terrestrial situations, such as on dirt roads or dry ground at the edge of marshes. During July and August 1965 air temperatures were recorded only for turtles captured on land, and were seldom obtained with turtles found in water. Air temperatures were recorded regularly in December 1965, January 1966, and April 1966.

ACTIVITY TEMPERATURE.—Two hundred cloacal temperatures and corresponding water temperatures were recorded. A highly significant regression ( $P < 0.01$ ) exists between a turtle's cloacal temperature and