

*carolina*, and give a mean CTM of 41.6°C for several species of semi-aquatic emydids.

Water temperatures during summer at midday may often be above tolerable levels for *T. coahuila*. High water temperatures in the study area were recorded on 25 July 1966 between 12:30 and 1:45 PM. The day was clear and hot, despite a brisk easterly wind. Air temperature was 35.0°C. Water temperatures were 37.8°C in marsh 6 and 35.3°C in marsh 2-A. On 14 October 1966 at 1:15 PM open water in marsh 8 reached a temperature of 38.8°C. Such maxima are probably not tolerated by *T. coahuila*, and no box turtles were found in the marshes where they were recorded. Just 5 or 6 cm below the water surface, temperatures of mud bottoms were approximately 5.0°C cooler than water. Mud temperatures drop steadily with depth, providing a cool refuge into which a turtle can readily retreat by burrowing to avoid potentially harmful temperatures of the shallow waters above.

In addition to avoidance of high temperatures on sunny days, *T. coahuila* seem to alternate periods of activity with longer periods of rest. One male remained in uninterrupted quiescence for nearly 4 days. I recorded the turtle at 7:45 AM on 20 July 1965 and watched it dig into the base of a sedge clump. The tussock was checked each morning and evening of the following days to verify the turtle's presence. It remained there, well covered by vegetation and in shallow water, until the night of 23 July or the early morning of 24 July. Resting for several days and then resuming activity was a conspicuous feature of *T. c. carolina* behavior (Stickel 1950). Legler (1960b) noted that some *T. o. ornata* were steadily quiet for several consecutive days in summer.

Unlike other box turtles, *T. coahuila* is to some extent nocturnal, although Webb et al. (1963) observed that *T. coahuila* in captivity were inactive after dark. Marshes in the study area were visited on three nights in the summer of 1965, and on two occasions (5 and 18 July) four active box turtles were found between 8:50 and 10:00 PM. Their activity was seemingly identical to that during the day; cloacal temperatures ranged from 23.5 to 27.4°C. No turtles were sighted between 11:30 PM and midnight on 3 August 1965. Breder (1927), Allard (1935), Cahn (1937), and Stickel (1950) noted no nocturnal activity in *T. c. carolina*, and Legler (1960b) showed by the use of thread trails that the activity of *T. o. ornata* ended at dusk.

Winter activities of *T. coahuila* may be curtailed by low water temperatures, except in thermal waters. On 28 December 1964 at Posos de la Becerra, then a series of large marsh pools 13 km SW of Cuatro Ciénegas, seven *T. coahuila* were found in shallow (20 cm) water. Air Temperatures ranged from 10.0 to 15.0°C and water from 7.2 to