

16.5°C from about 8:00 to 11:00 AM. The box turtles appeared lethargic when captured, most being partly buried in the flocculent bottom material. Body temperatures ranged from 7.2 to 12.4°C, mean 10.0°C. During December 1965 and January 1966 I caught no *T. coahuila* with a body temperature lower than 14.8°C.

A rudimentary laboratory experiment using adult *T. coahuila* of both sexes was performed to determine the approximate lower temperature limit that can be tolerated before body movements are impaired. Turtles were placed in a water bath of crushed ice at 0°C. When completely torpid, they were removed and placed on a dry surface at room temperature and allowed to warm slowly. At the first successful forward movement, cloacal temperatures ranged from 6.0 to 16.4°C in 12 trials. All temperatures except the extremes were in the range 10.2 to 14.4° (mode 12.0°C, mean 12.2°C). These data indicate the possible minimum effective temperature for movement in *T. coahuila* as around 12.0°C. The minimum temperature tolerated voluntarily may be 14.0 to 15.0°C. Cagle (1946) estimated the minimum effective temperature for activity in *Pseudemys scripta* to be about 10°C. Ernst (1967) found several pairs of *Clemmys guttata* copulating in 8.5°C water in Pennsylvania; cloacal temperatures of the turtles ranged from 8.0 to 10.1°C.

Diurnal activity follows ambient water temperatures more closely than air temperatures. Many nights in December, January, and February are cold (air 0°C or below). Although I recorded no evening water temperatures from the marshes in winter, Contreras Arias (1942) gives average minimum air temperatures of 9.0, 7.6, and 9.9°C and extreme minima of -2.0, -0.3, and -1.0°C, respectively, for these months. Such low air temperatures could conceivably drive surface water temperatures below that voluntarily tolerated by *T. coahuila*, forcing them into the mud bottom of marshes where temperatures would most likely be higher. Many turtles may undergo temporary states of inactivity at night as a result of the cold, especially from December through February.

#### FOOD AND FEEDING

**FORAGING BEHAVIOR.**—Practically all turtles captured were active. Inactive turtles were found infrequently, usually concealed under a sedge tussock, beneath mats of stonewort, or in the soft mud marsh bottom.

Two marshes provided suitable places for studying foraging turtles. The south and west edges of marsh 11 were relatively open, having areas of shallow water with scattered *Eleocharis* closely cropped by horses. A