

ignored them. My field notes on a turtle foraging in shallow water on 24 August 1965 are typical: "*Gambusia marshi* swam to within 2 cm of the animal's head, circling the turtle, and apparently searching for bits of food material exposed in the mud stirred up by its activity. The turtle paid no attention to the fish." *T. coahuila* were never seen chasing fishes.

Remains of a juvenile water snake, *Natrix erythrogaster*, were in the intestine of a female *T. coahuila* collected in August 1965. Aside from fishes, this was the only record of predation on a vertebrate. The snake seemed fresh and was probably eaten alive or right after having been killed. None of the other reptiles and amphibians observed in the marshes were present in any *T. coahuila* examined. *T. ornata* and *T. carolina* sometimes feed on vertebrates, chiefly amphibians, lizards, and snakes (Babcock 1919, Eaton 1947, Norris and Zweifel 1950, Merhtens and Hermann 1951, Klimstra and Newsome 1960, Hutchison and Vinegar 1963).

Of four species of emydid aquatic turtles Lagler (1943) examined in Michigan, *Emydoidea blandingi* and *Chrysemys picta* showed food preferences similar to *T. coahuila* in that the insects eaten were primarily aquatic, immature stages of dragonflies and damselflies, aquatic beetles and hemipterans. Insects accounted for 21.4% of the total volume of food in 66 *E. blandingi* examined, and 19.5% in 413 *C. picta*. *Chrysemys picta* is more similar to *T. coahuila* in its extensive utilization of various kinds of aquatic plants, which made up 61.5% by total volume, whereas plants were a relatively insignificant component (3.9%) in *E. blandingi*.

Knight and Gibbons (1968) reported that a single river population of *C. picta* in Michigan ate plants (chiefly filamentous algae) in amounts ranging from 30 to 40% of individual stomach volumes. This *C. picta* population also ate large numbers of midge larvae and cladocerans, demonstrating opportunism not unlike that shown by some *T. coahuila* in their occasional extensive consumption of amphipods or *Eleocharis* seeds. Webb (1961) recorded midge larvae, ants, caddisfly larvae, and small hemipterans in stomachs of 8 map turtles, *Graptemys pseudogeographica*, in Oklahoma, and also found a specimen ". . . gorged with grasshoppers" and one stomach filled with bermuda grass (*Cynodon*) and fogwort (*Lippia*). As noted earlier, *Clemmys muhlenbergi* apparently often feeds on seeds of sedges, and is also like *T. coahuila* in consuming insects, but principally Lepidoptera larvae and beetles (Barton and Price 1955).

Data of Klimstra and Newsome (1960) for *Terrapene c. carolina* in Illinois (plant material 34.2%, insects 19.6%) more closely resemble the