



FIGURE 12.—Frequency distributions of body size in 164 *T. coahuila* (70 males, 94 females) from study area. Bar diagrams show size of sexually mature individuals examined in the laboratory. Horizontal and vertical lines represent range of observed variation and mean, respectively; blocks represent 95% confidence limits. Sample sizes in parentheses.

the size of sexually mature individuals of both sexes (Fig. 12) shows a close correspondence between the two: 73% of females and 77% of males fall above the value of the lower 95% confidence limit for size at sexual maturity (97.3 mm in females, 104.6 mm in males), and over 98% of both sexes in the field were larger than the smallest sexually mature individual in the preserved samples. Therefore most turtles captured were either sexually mature or approaching maturity. Modes of both sexes are within the 95% confidence ranges for size of sexual maturity (females 95–105 mm, males 105–115 mm). A majority of turtles, especially females, are clumped at the lower end of the confidence range (Fig. 12). Cagle (1954) noted a similar concentration of *Chrysemys picta* near the size of attainment of sexual maturity. Growth in *C. picta* is apparently greatly reduced at that time (Cagle 1954; Gibbons 1968b; Ernst 1971b). Legler (1960b) determined that growth in *T. o. ornata* stops about 3 years after reaching sexual maturity in both sexes, and his histogram of plastron lengths shows a close agreement with percentages of sexually mature *T. ornata*; the greatest number of individuals fall in the size groups having the largest proportion of mature individuals.

Of the 164 *T. coahuila* marked in the study area, 70 (43%) were males and 94 (57%) were females, a ratio of 1.00 male to 1.34 females. The sex ratio may vary seasonally, although females did not significantly