

SECOND BREEDING OF CUORA AMBOINENSIS (DAUDIN 1802)

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INTRODUCTION

In a previous paper, Inskeep — in press, I discussed the maintenance and first breeding of a pair of *Cuora amboinensis*. In this paper I have given details of the same pairs' second breeding in 1983.

OBSERVATIONS

The pair had been separated since they mated in 1982. On 2nd March the male was introduced into the females tank just after it had been cleaned. Mating took place immediately. They remained coupled, underwater, for eight minutes; during which time the female remained passive. She then forced the male to release her and climbed out of the water. The male still had his penis extended. The pair were left together until 22nd March when the male was removed. During this period the female was never seen to enter the water, she was threatened by the male everytime she went near to the waters edge. Conversely the male was never seen on land.

The first egg was laid on 13th April, 42 days after mating. Viteline contact was visible by the second day and covered one third of the shell by the fifth day. No increase was noted after this. The second egg was found on 16th May buried in the gravel. As it already showed Viteline contact it was probably 24-48 hours old. It measured 50 x 25 mm.

On 10th July I decided to open the first egg; it was then 88 days old. (Last year's hatching took place after 74 days.) It contained a dead embryo 33 mm long. The embryo had turned on its side in the egg which may have caused its death. It did not appear deformed as last year's dead-in-shell was.

The second egg chipped on 2nd August, 78 days after laying. Things did not look good at first. The egg was still full of fluid and the embryo still had its eyes closed. However, by the next evening its eyes were open and it seemed alert. It did not emerge from the egg until 9th August, 85 days after laying. At this stage it was more advanced than last year's hatchling in that it had completely absorbed its yolk sac. It took last year's hatchling several days to do this. See Table I for growth comparison of the two hatchlings.

DISCUSSION

Extra data has been collected this year; notably the mating to first laying interval of 42 days. I am confident that this figure is valid as, judging from the adults' behaviour, there was no second mating. Incubation parameters were the same as last year so the comparison chipping and hatching date is beginning to show its variation.

TABLE I

Growth comparison of 1982 and 1983 hatchlings.

	1982	1983
A ¹ hatching	11g 38 x 31 mm	11g 38 x 25 mm
A ¹ 1 week	12g 41 x 35 mm	12g 41 x 32 mm
A ¹ 4 weeks	15g 45 x 38 mm	14g 44 x 35 mm
A ¹ 8 weeks	18g 48 x 41 mm	20g 47 x 39 mm
A ¹ 12 weeks	22g 51 x 44 mm	24g 51 x 43 mm
A ¹ 16 weeks	25g 54 x 44 mm	29g 53 x 46 mm
A ¹ 20 weeks	30g 54 x 45 mm	30g 54 x 47 mm
A ¹ 24 weeks	33g 55 x 46 mm	31g 55 x 47 mm

REFERENCE

Inskeep, R. (1984). A note on the captive breeding of the Box Turtle *Cuora amboinensis* (Daudin 1802). British Journal of Herpetology, in press. 2/84.