

that this individual could have suffered trauma to the region that had healed over to the current extent. However, without proper sectioning of the structure and related musculature, it remains uncertain whether this was a defect caused by trauma or a congenital condition.

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CHELONIA MYDAS (Green Sea Turtle). DIET. *Chelonia mydas* is a highly migratory species that crosses the territorial waters of many countries in the Eastern Pacific Ocean, using different marine habitats during its life cycle (Hirth 1997. USDI Fish and Wildlife Service Biol. Rep. 97). *Chelonia mydas* is considered an opportunistic omnivore in every stage of its development (Amarocho and Reina 2008. J. Exp. Mar. Biol. Ecol. 360:117–124). Variation in diet may be a consequence of local availability of food, turtle selectivity and/or type of habitat (Garnett et al. 1985. Wildl. Res. 12:103–112). Such dietary diversity may be a response to the energy requirements in early life stages, when important nutritional (e.g., protein) needs must be met for development and maturation (Bjørndal 1985. Copeia 1985:736–751). In Baja California Sur (BCS), novel diet items have been reported, including sea urchin (Reséndiz et al. 2016. Herpetol. Rev. 47:282) and cannonball jellyfish (Reséndiz et al. 2017. Herpetol. Rev. 48:172–173); despite this, knowledge of the diet of *C. mydas* in Guerrero Negro Lagoon is limited.

In 2017, food samples from 72 juvenile and subadult *C. mydas* (mean body mass 38.25 ± 21.22 kg) esophagi were collected during four field forays, and straight carapace length was recorded (mean 63.29 ± 11.61 cm). Sampled collection areas were El Chupalodo (28.02219°N , $114.06122^{\circ}\text{W}$) and Las Cruces (27.97057°N , $114.10667^{\circ}\text{W}$) at Guerrero Negro Lagoon, BCS, Mexico. In all samples, octopus, probably *Octopus bimaculatus*, was present and comprised 43% of the total volume. Turtle mean body condition index (BCI) was 1.50 (range = 1.1–1.8), similar to reported values in previous studies (Seminoff et al. 2003. J. Mar. Biol. Assoc. U.K. 83:1355–1362), suggesting that the animals were in good nutritional status and presumably capable of favorable reproductive performance. This is the first report of targeted octopus consumption by *C. mydas* in Guerrero Negro Lagoon. Octopus can supply minerals, vitamins, carbohydrates, and proteins (Doyle et al. 2007. J. Exp. Mar. Biol. Ecol. 343:239–252; Abdullah et al. 2015. I.J.C.B.S. 1:12–16), providing an important energy source for marine turtles (Bjørndal 1997. In Lutz and Musick [eds.], The Biology of Sea Turtles, pp. 199–231. CRC Press, Boca Raton, Florida), supporting growth and attainment of sexual maturity (Amarocho and Reina 2008. J. Exp. Mar. Biol. Ecol. 360:117–124). Previous reports of octopus consumption by *C. mydas* were noted for the Gulf of Ulloa, BCS, Mexico (Riosmena-Rodríguez and Lara-Uc 2015. Herpetol. Rev. 46:617). Octopus were frequently recovered in diet samples despite their low abundance in some areas; this suggests they were deliberately sought and consumed by *C. mydas*. The fact that octopus accounted for 43% of the total *C. mydas* diet suggests that this mollusk is a significant food resource for the turtles (Bjørndal 1990. Bull. Mar. Sci. 47:567–570). Guerrero Negro lagoon is an important feeding and development area for *C. mydas*, and in

these inshore foraging habitats, turtles demonstrate high site fidelity (Balazs and Chaloupka 2004. Mar. Biol. 145:1043–1059). For this reason, understanding sea turtle feeding ecology is essential for their conservation in these areas.

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CHELONIA MYDAS (Green Sea Turtle). HABITAT AND POLLUTION IMPACT. There are only a few records of *Chelonia mydas* for the Adriatic Sea, especially the North Adriatic basin, despite representing potential wintering or foraging habitat for this species. Twelve specimens have been recorded in the Adriatic Sea from 1830 to 2001 (Lazar et al. 2004. Herpetol. J. 14:143–148); an

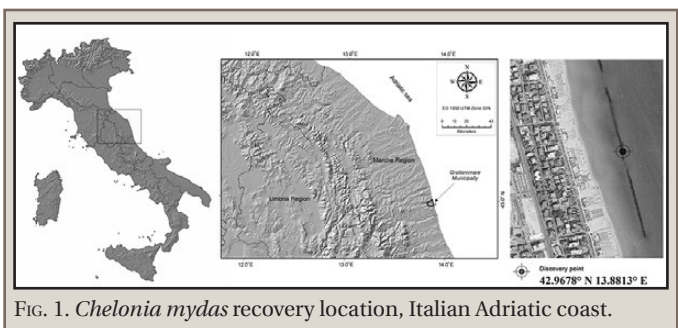


Fig. 1. *Chelonia mydas* recovery location, Italian Adriatic coast.



FIG. 2. Juvenile *Chelonia mydas* found stranded in a fishing net along the middle Adriatic Sea. a) Head scale morphology. b) Carapace morphology c) View of the animal during the recovery period d) View of the plastron.

additional seven specimens were found stranded along the Italian Adriatic coast from 2001 to 2004 (Storelli et al. 2008. Chemosphere 70:908–913), and three specimens were observed in Albania (Saçdanaku and Haxhiu 2015. Int. Sci. Index 9:3). From 2009 to 2016, five more *C. mydas* were recorded in Italian coastal waters of the northern-middle Adriatic Sea: Lido delle Nazioni (2009) and Porto Garibaldi (2010) (in Vallini et al. 2014. Mar. Turt. Newsl. 143:7–9), Grottammare (2015) (this note), and Cesenatico and Rimini (2016) (Fondazione Cetacea ONLUS).

Here we present data on a juvenile *C. mydas* that was found stranded on 1 September 2015 at 1800 h in a fishing net along the Grottammare coast (Ascoli Piceno, Italy; 42.9678°N, 13.8813°E, ED50; Fig. 1). This individual had a curved carapace length (CCL) of 28.0 cm, a straight carapace width (SCW) of 24.0 cm and an estimated weight of 2.8 kg. The turtle lacked the left hind limb; the remaining stump was completely healed over (Fig. 2). About 13 *Chelonibia testudinaria* (Turtle Barnacles) were found on the carapace; one was found on the plastron (Fig. 2). Following a recovery period at a regional center (Care and Rehabilitation for Sea Turtles, Fondazione Cetacea ONLUS, Riccione, RN, Italy), the turtle was tagged (titanium tag: FC0487) and released on 12 October 2015 at 1100 h. The procedures carried out on the turtle were performed in accordance with routine veterinary practice at the Rescue Center, guidelines for conservation and rehabilitation of marine turtles (ISPRA 2013, Handbooks and Guidelines vol. 89).

Given that alarming levels of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) have been recently observed in *Caretta caretta* (Loggerhead Sea Turtle) from the Adriatic Sea (Bucchia et al. 2015. Sci. Total Environ. 523:161–169; Cocci et al. 2018. Sci. Total Environ. 619–620:49–57), we used a blood sample, obtained by a minimally invasive method (Cocci et al. 2018, *op. cit.*), to evaluate the PAH burden of the *C. mydas* specimen. Total PAH (Σ PAHs) blood levels were 76.37 ng ml⁻¹ with a greater incidence (66.33 ng ml⁻¹) of low molecular weight PAHs (LMW-PAHs) than high molecular weight PAHs (HMW-PAHs) (10.04 ng ml⁻¹). The high abundance of LMW-PAHs was also similar to the results previously reported in Adriatic *C. caretta* suggesting

both a constant exposure of these species through their diet and a potentially lower metabolic capacity for these contaminants. To our knowledge, this study represents the first to monitor PAH levels in a new case of *C. mydas* recorded along the Italian coastal waters of the northern-middle Adriatic Sea, highlighting the potential insight to be gained from future investigations on Green Sea Turtles from this area.

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CHELYDRA SERPENTINA (Snapping Turtle). NESTING RANGE EXPANSION. On 23 June 2015, Mike Allen observed nesting attempts by a *Chelydra serpentina* on his property on Lake Mud, Rouyn-Noranda, Quebec, Canada. After careful observation of the female's behavior, the nest was found ca. 1.5 m south of his house (48.1953°N, 79.2814°W; NAD 83). It was located 53 m from the lake, ca. 16 m above the water level (Fig. 1). To reach the nesting site, the female had to cross a sloped ground scattered with rocks and trees. The nest was dug into the backyard gravel substrate. On 18 September 2015, the clutch hatched at ca. 1800 h. The next morning, I collected some unhatched eggs and a dead hatchling. A live hatchling was also observed (Fig. 2). Mike Allen reported that at least 35 hatchlings left the nest. Incubation lasted 88 days. The maximum air temperature was above 20°C for 64 days of the incubation period (climate.weather.gc.ca; 1 May 2018). Eggs incubated experimentally at 20°C failed to hatch, although some embryos remained viable (Yntema 1978. Herpetologica 34:274–277).

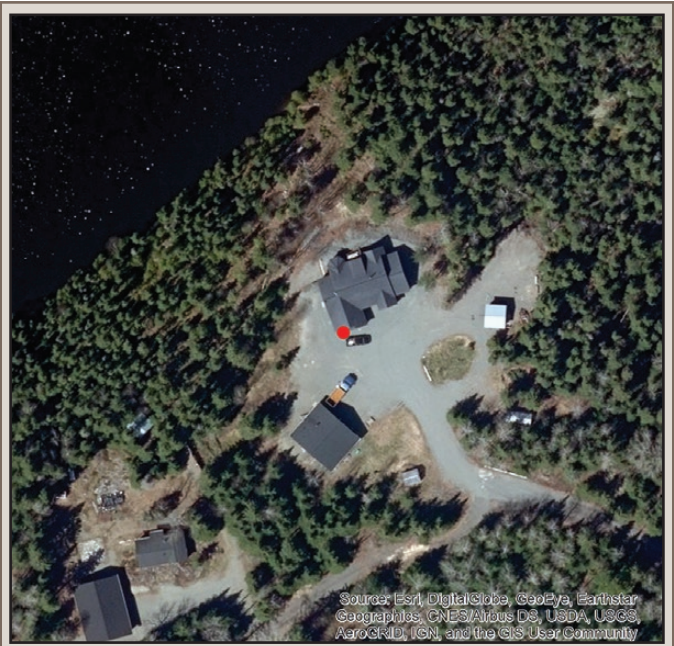


FIG. 1. Location of a nest of *Chelydra serpentina*, found on a property beside Lake Mud (red dot shows the nest location).