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CHELONOIDIS CHILENSIS (Chaco Tortoise). ENDOPARASITES. Two species of the genus *Chelonoidis* occur in Argentina, both of which are considered nationally endangered. In Argentina, *C. chilensis* is distributed over the northern two thirds of the country (Prado et al. 2012. Cuad. Herpetol. 26:375–387). Adults are largely herbivorous, but dietary choices may vary according to the available resources (Richard 1994. Cuad. Herpetol. 8:131–140). In Argentina, relationships between nematodes and turtles have received limited attention. The previous summary of nematode parasites in Testudinidae includes 79 Oxyurida and 25 Ascaridida with 11 species known from the Neotropical region (five Oxyurida and six Ascaridida) (Bouamer and Morand 2006. Ann. Zool. 56:225–240). We know of no previous published parasite records for *C. chilensis* and we establish the initial helminth list in the present note.

One adult female *C. chilensis* (carapace length = 19 cm) was obtained from the Rehabilitation Center for Wildlife, Environmental Education and Responsible Recreation (Parque Faunístico), Rivadavia Department, Province of San Juan, Argentina, in November 2018. The specimen had died from unknown causes. The body cavity was opened by a mid-ventral incision and the digestive tract was removed and examined with a stereoscopic binocular microscope. The nematodes found were stored in 70% ethanol. Nematode analysis was done using the diaphanization by lactophenol technique, and identification was performed using an Arcano optical microscope. The specimens were deposited in the parasitological collection of the Department of Biology, National University of San Juan (UNSJPar 255, 256). Two species of nematodes were identified in the large intestine: *Falcaustra* sp. (3 males, 43 females) and *Labiduris* sp. (6 males, 63 females). At this time there are apparently no reports of *Falcaustra* sp. or *Labiduris* sp. in *C. Chilensis* from Argentina.

The adult stages of *Falcaustra* mainly parasitize turtles (Baker 1987. Mem. Univ. Newfoundland Occas. Pap. Biol. 11:1–325). The specimens of *Falcaustra* sp. identified in this study possess the following diagnostic characteristics: large nematodes with lateral alae absent, oesophageal isthmus spherical, oesophageal bulb well differentiated, elongated esophagus with short pharynx and presenting a bulb provided with small dilation or pseudobulb, pre- and post-anal papillae, and oviparous female, with the vulva in the posterior half of the body. *Labiduris* sp. identified herein possess these characteristics: monodelphic ovaries, oral opening apical in position, oral opening ventrally displaced, subventral lip with a fringe, cuticle without spines, and vulva separate from rectum and anus (Mondal and Manna 2013. J. Parasit. Dis. 37:134–141). The information reported here represents an initial contribution to the knowledge of parasites in *C. chilensis* in particular and Argentinian turtles in general.

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CHELYDRA SERPENTINA (Snapping Turtle). GROWTH AND MATURITY. Although the reproductive ecology of *Chelydra serpentina* has been well studied at our field site at Gimlet Lake, Garden County, Nebraska, USA (Iverson et al. 1997. Herpetologica 53:96–117; Hedrick et al. 2018. Can. J. Zool. 90:221–228), the only available data on female growth for that population are based on preliminary counts of scute annuli made in the 1980s and 1990s. We here report an analysis of growth based on a von Bertalanffy analysis of 50 recaptures coupled with estimated age data for 18 females initially aged by scute annuli and later recaptured (27 times) over the past 37 years. In order to anchor the von Bertalanffy curve (method following Jones 2017. Chelon. Conserv. Biol. 16:215–228), we included two juvenile

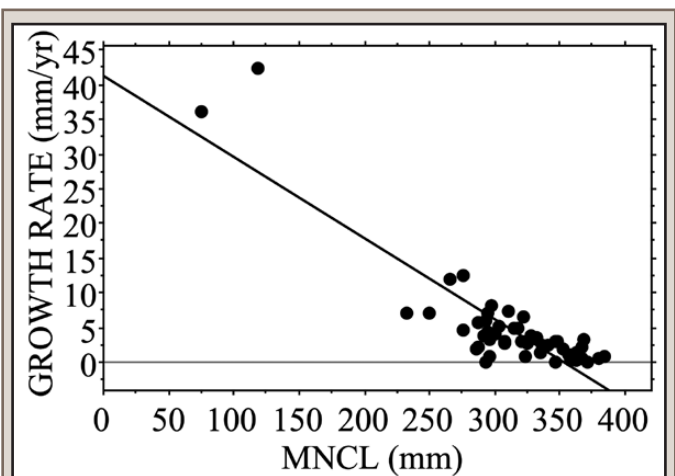


FIG. 1. Relationship between carapace growth rate (GR; mm/yr) and mean carapace length at first and last capture (MNCL; mm) for female *Chelydra serpentina* in western Nebraska. Least square regression line is plotted: $N = 50$; mean recapture interval = 5.16 yr; range = 1–15 yr; $GR = 41.373 - 0.1169 MNCL$; $r = 0.87$; $P < 0.0001$.

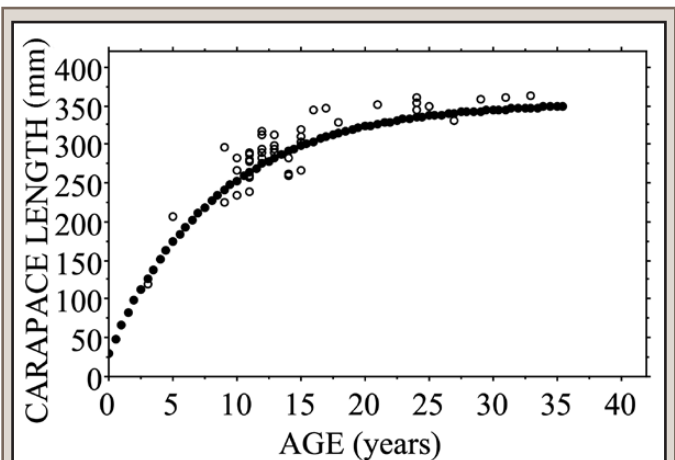


FIG. 2. Carapace growth (in mm) of female *Chelydra serpentina* based on a von Bertalanffy growth model (solid dots) and estimated ages (in winters) based on 50 recaptures originally aged by counts of scute annuli (open circles). Von Bertalanffy growth model is $CL = 353.92(1 - 0.9152e^{-0.1169t})$, where $t =$ age in years.