



Monitoring of *Mesoclemmysdahli* (Zangerl and Medem 1958) in Sucre, Colombia

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Abstract: *Mesoclemmysdahli* is a critically endangered species that is endemic to the Colombian Caribbean coast, so the Tropical Biodiversity Research Group of the University of Sucre has maintained its monitoring for several years. Their abundance, habitat preferences and proportion of females with oviductal eggs were determined in 42 wells or “jagüeyes”, in different localities of Sucre. 83 turtles of this species were captured for an absolute abundance of 7.5 ind/ha, lower than in previous years. It seems to prefer jagüeyes of relatively small area (up to 0.2 ha) and with abundant riparian vegetation in its perimeter. 70% of the females captured presented oviductal eggs. Evidence was obtained that some turtles can remain in the same locality for many years. Possible malformations were detected, but there is no evidence that these could be due to genetic drift. We propose that it would be opportune to create local protected areas in places inhabited by this species.

Key words: *Mesoclemmysdahli*, conservation, endemic, jagüeyes, endangered species.

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