

DERMOCHELYS CORIACEA (Leatherback Sea Turtle).
COPULATION. Carr and Carr (1986. *Herpetol. Rev.* 17:24–25) observed a pair of *Dermochelys coriacea* copulating near Culebra Island, Puerto Rico. We report a second observation of copulation for this species near Suriname. At Matapica Beach, Suriname, on 24 June 1994 at ca. 1600 h, we observed two *D. coriacea* ca. 30 m offshore, one on top of the other. The upper turtle was clutching the lower turtle with its front flippers. The lower turtle was completely submerged, and was heard taking deep breaths at regular intervals. We do not know how long the turtles had been together before we noticed them. After ca. 20 min, the upper turtle shook loose and swam away underwater, while the lower turtle remained quiescent at the surface. After another 10 min, it began swimming on the surface, parallel to the beach.

From local fisherman and conservation workers, we learned that copulating *D. coriacea* are not an uncommon sight in the waters near this nesting beach. Eckert and Eckert (1988. *Copeia* 1988:400–406) used data on the distribution of epibionts on the carapaces of female *D. coriacea* to infer that turtles nesting in St. Croix must have mated outside of tropical waters. In contrast, our observations demonstrate that these turtles do mate in tropical waters. It may be that *D. coriacea* in Suriname have different mating patterns from those in St. Croix.

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Submitted by **MATTHEW H. GODFREY**, Department of Zoology, University of Toronto, Ontario M5S 3G5, Canada, and **R. BARRETO**, Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University, North York, Ontario M3J 1P3, Canada.