emendation to *asperus* was wrong. The correct combination is *Trionyx spiniferus asper.*

Because *Iguana* has been reported as introduced and breeding in the United States (Wilson and Porras 1983), it is appropriate to comment here on the spelling of the species name. Linnaeus (1758: 206) named the green iguana *Lacerta igvana.* It is clear from his usage elsewhere on the page (e.g., *vulgaris, aquatica*) and his notation of pre-Linnaean names (e.g., Yvana, Igvana, Leguan) that the use of a "v" rather than a "u" in *igvana* was not as romanized "u." The correct spelling (under Art. 33) of the species name is *igvana.* Laurenti (1768) erected the generic name *Iguana*, spelled with a "u." Therefore, the correct combination should be *Iguana igvana,* analogous to *Gekko gecko* or *Mabuya mabouya.* However, in light of the fact that no one, other than Linnaeus, has ever used *igvana* we are preparing a petition to the International Commission of Zoological Nomenclature for conservation of the spelling *iguana.*

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NEW LOCALITY RECORDS IN ARGENTINA AND PARAGUAY FOR CHELID TURTLES, *Platemys pallidipectoris* (FREIBERG) AND *Platemys macrocephala* (RHODIN *ET AL.*)

A review of the chelonians deposited in the Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales Bernardino Rivadavia (MACN) in Buenos Aires revealed five heretofore unrecorded specimens of *Platemys pallidipectoris,* including two from a previously unrecorded province. Two specimens of *Platemys macrocephala* were also in the collection, representing the first specimens recorded from Paraguay. All specimens in question had been mislabelled *Platemys spixii* or *Hydromedusa tectifera;* the most recent identification of the MACN turtle collection had been accomplished by a visiting foreign herpetologist a few years prior to the author's visit in late 1985. No specimens of *P. spixii* were found in the collection.

PLATEMYS PALLIDIPECTORIS: Five previously unrecorded specimens of this rare chelid were examined at the MACN. Two of these, MACN 5.478 (shell only) and MACN 1.30483, an entire adult female, lacked data. The identification of the former specimen was assured by the presence of a bit of dried skin attached to the posterior carapace, on which the enlarged thigh tubercles were well preserved.

MACN 7.459 is an entire adult alcoholic specimen, collected by Marcos Freiberg around Resistencia, Chaco in 1940, and was included in the first series of Argentinian *spixii* (Freiberg 1940). This specimen bears a second tag with the number 2474 from the Museo de Entre Rios, where the other two specimens of the *spixii* series presumably remain. The presence of this animal at the MACN could not be explained by either the director of herpetology, Jorge Cranwell, nor by Dr. Freiberg (pers. comm.). The correct identity of this specimen as *pallidipectoris* had already been deduced from Freiberg's detailed description of this specimen in 1940 (Rhodin and Mittermeier 1984).

MACN 8626 is a complete male specimen, collected by Cranwell and Giai in 1945 at Estancia Las Guampitas, near Jobson, Depto. Vera, Santa Fé Province. According to the senior collector, this specimen was found in a pond (*estero*). This turtle extends the known range of *P. pallidipectoris* about 275 km to the south of the nearest recorded location, Resistencia, Chaco.

MACN 1.30482 was collected by Luis Guerrero in "northern Santa Fé Province," and was deposited in the MACN in 1980. This whole specimen is a female. The only other specimen of *P. pallidipectoris* in the MACN (housed separately) is the type, MACN 1731. In addition, an adult specimen of this turtle was collected near Castelli, Chaco and taken alive to the Buenos Aires Zoo in January 1985 according to Tomás Waller of the Fundación Vida Silvestre Argentina. On the author's visit to the Buenos Aires Zoo the turtle could not be located. Castelli lies ca. 60 km N-NW of the type locality, Roque Saenz-Peña, Chaco (Freiberg 1945).

PLATEMYS MACROCEPHALA: MACN 1.8287 and 1.8288 are the shells only of a juvenile and adult specimen from Estancia Palo Santo, Puerto Casado, Paraguay, collected by Cranwell in May 1946. He recorded having found these empty shells at the edge of a canebrake (*cañaveral*). The juvenile, with a carapace length of 93.1 mm, is the smallest recorded specimen of *P. macrocephala.* Some of the dorsal scutes are lacking on both shells, revealing the absence of neural bones. The juvenile's carapace readily exhibits the increased depth for which *P. macrocephala* is so distinct. The occurrence of *P. macrocephala* in the area of Puerto Casado, Paraguay reinforces the accuracy of the distribution map provided by Rhodin et al. (1984); Puerto Casado lies at the southernmost tip of the designated range. This record represents the first actual verification of the occurrence of *P. macrocephala* in Paraguay.

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NOCTURNAL ACTIVITY IN THE BOLSON TORTOISE (*Gopherus flavomarginatus*)

While studying the basic biology of Bolson tortoises, *Gopherus flavomarginatus*, at the Mapimí Biosphere Reserve's Laboratorio del Desierto in Durango, México (26°38'N/103°46'W), one of us (MAR) suggested that tortoises may emerge from their burrows after dark in response to rising soil temperatures. To ascertain whether emergence occurred routinely after field observations ceased (±2000 h), we re-wired an analog travel alarm clock so that a long tripwire extended from one pole of its 'AA' battery, across the burrow mouth of an adult female tortoise (#95, 7.3 kg BW), to the other pole. The clock was set at ±2000 h for ten nights between 17 July and 09 August 1980 and read the following morning at ±0700 h. In addition, one of us (MAR) observed the animal from 2000 h until 2340 h on 30 July 1980.

Tortoise #95 emerged every one of the ten nights after or about 2000 h (range = 1942-2326 h). On the evening of continuous monitoring, #95 emerged, reentered and reemerged from its burrow, and rested on either the burrow slide or mound. During the three hours and forty minutes of observation her T_b declined from 33.2 to to 29.6°C, as determined from deep body radiotelemetry. We believe this behavior may be related to elevated ambient temperatures. Figure 1 plots the temperatures of i) air in the shade ii) soil in the shade and iii) soil at 15 cm depth for the periods 09 July to 04 August (dry season) and 05 August to 20 August (rainy season) during 1980. In the dry season, both shaded air and soil temperatures peak at 1600-1700 h and by 2000 h are ≤ 34° C; in the wet season they are ≤ 26° C by 2000 h.

Deep soil temperature, however, follows a different pattern. Solar energy is stored increasingly during the day and refluxes as infrared radiation at night, so that temperatures reach ≥ 37° C between 1700-2000 h in the dry season and ≥ 31° C during the same times in the rainy season. All dry versus rainy season microclimatic temperatures were statistically different (ANOVA, df=139,2326; F= 129.35; p≤ .01). Similarly, temperature measurements made at night of the soil at 6 cm and 15 cm depth in the Mohave desert during July (MAR, unpublished observations) showed that soil temperatures exceeded 34° C between 2300 and 0100 h.

During the 23 days of this study, tortoise #95 had a daily average body temperature (T_b) of 30.2 ± 0.9° C (N=1,662). The average T_b at the initiation of diurnal foraging was 29.6 ± 1.7° C (N=21). Perhaps tortoises are activated nocturnally by elevated ambient burrow and/or soil temperatures, but are prevented from leaving the immediate vicinity of the burrow by their sensory (visual?) limitations. Luckenbach (1982) suggested that the desert tortoise, *Gopherus agassizii*, may emerge nocturnally during rainstorms, however, he provided no data. Our observations at Mapimí suggest that *G. flavomarginatus* does emerge during nocturnal rains. In contrast, Voigt (1975) reported that "in 3 years of close observation of the desert tortoise, nocturnal or pre-dawn activity was never observed in the field.' Similarly, Rose and Judd (1982) reported that *G. berlandieri* is diurnal and Douglass and Layne (1978) never detected nocturnal activity in *G. polyphemus*. The Aldabran tortoise, *Geochelone gigantea*, a non-burrowing species, apparently rests on the ground surface at night (Swingland and Frazier 1979), but is not active except when nesting.

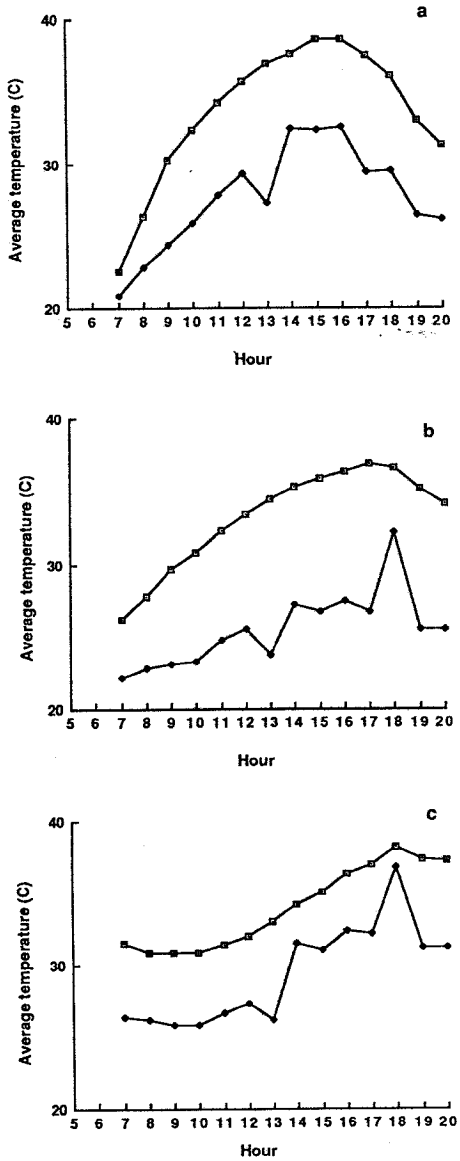

Figure 1. Average hourly temperature for dry season (upper curves) and wet season (lower curves) at Mapimí Biosphere Reserve during 1980. a= shaded air, b= shaded soil surface, c= soil at 15 cm depth.

Nocturnal activity by apparently diurnal iguanid lizards does occur. Mora (1986) reported nocturnal activity related to nesting in *Ctenosaura* and one of us (MAR) has radiotracked *Crotaphytus wislizenii* which were active and feeding at night during elevated temperatures in the Mohave Desert. We suspect that nocturnal emergence in diurnal reptiles occurs more widely, but has remained undocumented because most workers have not looked for it.

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