

An Albino Snapping Turtle, *Chelydra serpentina*, from Québec

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A hatchling albino Snapping Turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*) was captured in Terrasse-Vaudreuil on Ile-Perrot, Québec. This is the first report of albinism in this species in Québec.

Key Words: Snapping Turtle, *Chelydra serpentina*, albinism, Québec.

Hensley (1959) documented two cases of albinism for the Snapping Turtle, *Chelydra serpentina*, one of which was from Canada and occurred near Windsor, Ontario. Judd (1971) reported another specimen from the vicinity of London, Ontario. Another specimen was photographed in 1981 in Point Pelee National Park in Essex County, Ontario (Oldham, personal communication). Five additional records for the United States were summarized in Dyrkacz (1981). Recently, Williams and Norden (1992) reported a specimen from Maryland. Here, we describe an additional instance of albinism from a northern population of Snapping Turtles.

On 14 September 1995, an albino hatchling Snapping Turtle (Figure 1) was collected as it exited from its nest, at approximately 16:00. Unfortunately, the clutch size and presence of other abnormally pigmented turtles was not recorded. The nesting site

was located in Terrasse-Vaudreuil on the northern most tip of Ile-Perrot, Québec (45°23'30"N, 73°58'00"W). The turtle had red eyes and white skin, but appeared slightly pink. On 25 September 1995, the specimen was measured with dial calipers and found to have a straight line carapace length and width of 30.0 mm and 28.4 mm, respectively. The turtle also had a plastron length of 19.7 mm and a mass of 7 g. It was maintained by the collector, Robert Lamoureux, until its death on 20 January 1996 and was subsequently deposited at the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM 29086).

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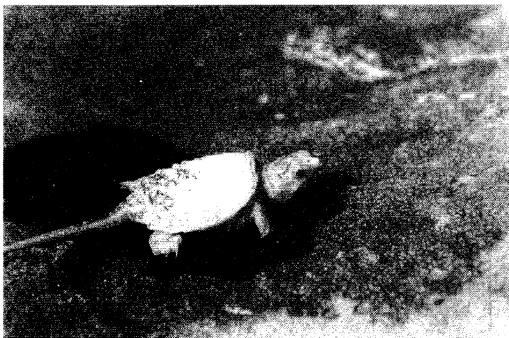


FIGURE 1. Albino hatchling *Chelydra serpentina* collected on Ile-Perrot, Québec. Dark areas on posterior carapace are soil deposits (Photograph by D. Rodrigue on 24 September 1995).

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