EX-SITU HATCHING OF EGGS OF
PANGSHURA TENTORIA (GRAY 1834)

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ABSTRACT

Pangshura tentoria (Gray 1834), popularly known as Indian Tent, is one of the most important species of freshwater turtles which is placed in IUCN Red List of threatened species. There are four sub-species of this species namely Pangshura tentoria, Pangshura, Pangshura tentoria circumdata and Pangshura tentoria flaviventris. The present paper reports the breeding biology of Pangshura tentoria in artificial hatching condition. The eggs were collected from two potential habitat locations of un-divided Nagaon district of Assam and incubated in an artificial environment for hatching.

The study revealed that the average incubation period of the species is eight months (7) out of 42 eggs in the first batch of incubation for 240 days, 29 were hatched. In the second batch 40 eggs were incubated for 250 days and 26 were hatched out. The hatchlings had an average body weight of 12g, length 5.5 cm, breadth 4.5 cm and the survival percentage was around 65%. The present work is an initiative towards the future conservation action through artificial hatching for conservation.

Keywords: Conservation, hatching, incubation, freshwater turtles.

INTRODUCTION

Pangshura tentoria (Gray 1834), popularly known as Indian Tent, is a freshwater turtle species. The species is distributed in India, Bangladesh and Nepal (Das, 1995). They inhabit different water bodies ranging from shallow ponds to deep lakes and rivers with omnivorous habit. The population of the species is declining due to habitat loss, alteration and fragmentation and wide range egg destruction.

Information on ex-situ hatching and breeding biology of fresh water turtle species is rare. Mishra (1984) and Moll (1987) have provided some breeding data of fresh water turtle species Kachuga tecta in natural environment. Vijaya (1982) and Vyas and Patel (1993) attempted captive breeding of Kachuga tecta. Vyas (2001) has presented data on captive breeding of Kachuga tecta. The present study was undertaken to understand and

Appendix B : Publication