

CHELONIA MYDAS AGASSIZII (East Pacific Green Sea Turtle). **DIET.** The feeding habits of *Chelonia mydas agassizii* have been documented for much of its range (Felger and Moser 1987. Environ. Southwest, Fall 1987:18–21; Casas-Andreu and Gomez-Aguirre 1980. Bolm. Inst. Oceanogr., S. Paulo, 29:87; Seminoff et al. 2002. J. Herpetol. 36:447–453). Although immature and adult *C. mydas agassizii* are known to be primarily herbivorous, feeding on seagrasses and/or marine algae, this turtle occasionally consumes invertebrates (Casas-Andreu and Gomez-Aguirre, *op cit.*; Felger and Moser, *op cit.*; Seminoff et al. 2000. Herpetol. Rev. 31:103). Here we report on the consumption of pelagic red crabs (*Pleuroncodes planipes*) by a *C. m. agassizii* along the Pacific Coast of the Baja California peninsula, Mexico.

Between October 2000 and March 2002, we examined digestive tract contents of 23 turtles that were incidentally drowned in fishing nets near Bahía Magdalena, Baja California Sur, México (24°15'–25°20'N and 111°20'–112°15'W). On 12 February 2002, we recovered a stomach from an immature *C. mydas agassizii* (straight carapace length = 54.4 cm) containing more than 82% by volume of red crabs (*Pleuroncodes planipes*). *P. planipes* has been shown to be a primary food of Loggerhead Seaturtles (*Caretta caretta*) in the Pacific Ocean (Ramirez-Cruz et al. 1991. Archelon 1[2]:1–4), but to our knowledge this is the first report of red crab consumption by a *C. m. agassizii*, and the first documentation of a Green Sea Turtle feeding predominantly on crustaceans. The highest densities of *P. planipes* in the eastern Pacific Ocean occur off Bahía Magdalena; the crabs migrate inshore during cold season (winter–spring) upwelling conditions (Aurioles-Gamboa 1992. Crustaceana 62:71–84). This finding is consistent with reports by Bjorndal (1997. In Lutz and Musick [eds.], The Biology of Sea Turtles, pp. 199–232. CRC Press, Boca Raton, Florida) that East Pacific Green Seaturtles may have a more carnivorous diet than *Chelonia* of other regions.

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