

SUMMARY

Fidelity to nesting area of females of the European pond turtle *Emys orbicularis* (L.)

Most of available data on reproduction of the European pond turtle *Emys orbicularis* (L.) concern the clutch size and nesting period. However, the nest site can influence the hatchlings' sex ratio and nesting success. Thus, the data on fidelity to nesting area are important to understand the life history of the turtle. During a project of active protection of *E. orbicularis* 118 nest sites of 23 females were recorded at a research area in central Poland in 1987-2002. They were located mainly within 150 m from the water body. Only in few cases this distance reached about 300 m. Some of investigated females presented strong fidelity to nesting area, however, most of them changed nesting areas after short periods of time. Therefore, it is necessary to protect not only the sites where egg laying was recorded but also all the potential nesting areas in a 200-m wide zone along the shore of water body.