

HAWKSBILL TURTLE (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) EGGS
AND MATCHLINGS IN MALACCA : MORPHOMETRIC
AND HEAVY METAL ANALYSES

HAW SEE LIONG

FACULTY OF MARITIME STUDIES AND MARINE SCIENCE
UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA TERENGGANU

2008

C/N 6411

1100061836

Perpustakaan Sultanah Nur Zahirah (UMT)
Universiti Malaysia Terengganu

LP 15 FMSM 1 2008



1100061836

Hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) eggs and matchlings in Malacca : morphometric and heavy metal analysis / Haw See Liang.



PERPUSTAKAAN SULTANAH NUR ZAHIRAH
UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA TERENGGANU (UMT)
21030 KUALA TERENGGANU

1100061886

Lihat soalnya



**HAWKSBILL TURTLE (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) EGGS AND HATCHLINGS
IN MALACCA : MORPHOMETRIC AND HEAVY METAL ANALYSES.**

By

Haw See Liong

**Research Report submitted in partial fulfillment of
the requirements for the degree of
Bachelor of Science (Marine Biology)**

**Department of Marine Science
Faculty of Maritime Studies and Marine Science
UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA TERENGGANU
2008**

This project should be cited as :

Haw, S. L. 2008. Hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) eggs and hatchlings in Malacca: Morphometric and heavy metal analyses. Undergraduate thesis, Bachelor of Science in Marine Biology, Faculty of Maritime Studies and Marine Sciences, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu, Terengganu.

No part of this project report may be reproduced by any mechanical, photographic, or electronic process, or in the form of phonographic recording, nor may it be stored in a retrieval system, transmitted, or otherwise copied for public or private use, without written permission from the author and the supervisor of the project.



**JABATAN SAINS MARIN
FAKULTI PENGAJIAN MARITIM DAN SAINS MARIN
UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA TERENGGANU**

**PENGAKUAN DAN PENGESAHAN LAPORAN
PROJEK PENYELIDIKAN I DAN II**

Adalah ini diakui dan disahkan bahawa laporan penyelidikan bertajuk:

Hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) eggs and hatchlings in Malacca : Morphometric and heavy metal analyses. oleh Haw See Liong, No.Matrik: UK 12382 telah diperiksa dan semua pembetulan yang disarankan telah dilakukan. Laporan ini dikemukakan kepada Jabatan Sains Marin sebagai memenuhi sebahagian daripada keperluan memperolehi Ijazah Sarjana Muda (Biologi Marin), Fakulti Pengajian Maritim dan Sains Marin, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu.

Disahkan oleh:

Penyelia Utama

Nama: Dr. Juanita Joseph

Cop Rasmi:

DR. JUANITA JOSEPH

Pensyarah

Jabatan Sains Marin

Fakulti Pengajian Maritim dan Sains Marin
Universiti Malaysia Terengganu
(UMT)

Tarikh: 4/5/2008

Ketua Jabatan Sains Marin

Nama: Dr. Razak bin Zakaria

Cop Rasmi:

DR. RAZAK ZAKARIYA

Ketua Jabatan Sains Marin

Fakulti Pengajian Maritim dan Sains Marin
Universiti Malaysia Terengganu
(UMT)

Tarikh: 12/5/08

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Firstly, I would like to thank my supervisor, Dr. Juanita Joseph who gave me lot of guidance in conducting this study and also to accomplish my thesis. My thank to Mr. Sainol who provided me with laboratory materials in Marine Organic and Inorganic Laboratory. Also to Mr. Joseph who kindly help me in analyzing the heavy metal using ICP-MS. Thanks to WWF-Malaysia Malacca who gave me the opportunity to undergo internship with them and gave me a chance to conduct my study on the Malaccan hawksbill turtle. Thanks to Miss Min Min, Mr. Ernest, Mr. Arvind and Miss Grace. My appreciation to Department Of Fisheries as they gave me permission to do my research at Padang Kemunting Hatchery, Malacca.

Last but not least, to all my friends and family members who are always caring and support me throughout the study. Teng, Jefri and Lynn who always give advices, encouragement and solution to problems faced during the study and thesis writing. The support, love and encouragement from my family, have bring to the accomplishment of this project. Thank you.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	ii
LIST OF TABLES	vi
LIST OF FIGURES	vii
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	viii
LIST OF APPENDICES	ix
ABSTRACT	x
ABSTRAK	xi
CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 Objectives	3
CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW	4
2.1 Biology of Sea Turtles	4
2.2 Biology of Hawksbill Turtle	6
2.3 Distribution of Hawksbill Turtle	8
2.4 Hawksbill Eggs and Hatchlings	10
2.5 Heavy Metals	12
2.5.1 Heavy Metals in Turtle Eggs	13

CHAPTER 3: METHODOLOGY	17
3.1 Study Area	17
3.1.1 Beach Hatchery	18
3.1.2 Styrofoam Box	20
3.2 Samples Collection	21
3.2.1 Turtle eggs and Hatchling Measurements	21
3.2.2 Heavy Metal Analysis	22
3.3 Laboratory Analysis	22
3.3.1 Heavy Metal Analysis	22
3.4 Data Analysis	25
3.4.1 Egg and Hatchling Measurements	25
3.4.2 Heavy Metals Concentration	25
3.4.2.1 Dry Weight	25
3.4.2.2 Wet Weight	26
CHAPTER 4: RESULTS	27
4.1 Beach Hatchery	28
4.2 Styrofoam Box	28
4.3 Beach Hatchery vs. Styrofoam Box	28
4.4 Egg Size, Hatchling Size and Mass	30
4.5 Heavy Metals in Egg Yolk	32

CHAPTER 5: DISCUSSION	34
5.1 Beach Hatchery vs. Styrofoam Box	35
5.2 Egg Size, Hatchling Size and Mass	38
5.3 Heavy Metals in Egg Yolk	40
CHAPTER 6: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS	44
REFERENCES	46
APPENDICES	54 .
CURICULUM VITAE	57

LIST OF TABLES

Table		Page
2.1	Taxonomic key of <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>	7
2.2	The sources of heavy metal from human activities, including the regulatory safe levels and effects towards human health	15
4.1	Summary of data collected on incubation period and hatchlings size of hawksbill eggs clutches incubated in beach hatchery and styrofoam box	29
4.2	Linear regression between egg diameter with the hatchling size and mass	31
4.3	Heavy metals concentration ($\mu\text{g/g}$ dry wt.) determined in the yolk of fresh and un-hatched turtle eggs	23
5.1	Hawksbill eggs incubation period and hatchlings size collected from beach hatchery incubation	38
5.2	Heavy metal concentrations ($\mu\text{g/g}$ wet wt.) in turtle eggs yolks from literature in comparison with Malacca hawksbill turtle egg yolks	41
5.2	Guidelines on heavy metals ($\mu\text{g/g}$) for food safety set by Malaysian Food Regulation (1985) and Food and Drug Administration of the United States (USFDA, 1990)	43

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure		Page
2.1	Species identification; characteristic of <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> . (Modified from Pritchard and Mortimer, 1999)	7
2.2	An illegal Chinese fishing vessel with 397 dead turtles aboard was seized in East Kalimantan, Indonesia, in May 2007. China (© WWF-TNC Joint Marine Program, Berau)	9
3.1	Map of Malacca showing the location of five major nesting beaches in mainland Malacca and Upah Island	19
3.2	50% shaded beach hatchery	19
3.3	Eggs transported from Upah Island were placed in a small room	20
3.4	Measuring the straight carapace length of hatchlings using Digimatic caliper (CD-6" CSX)	24
3.5	Weighing the hatchling using portable scale (ACJ Series)	24
3.6	Teflons covered with parafilm was soaked in 60 water bath	24
3.7	Sample was topped up with deionized water	24
4.1	Regression of egg diameter (mm) on straight carapace length (cm) of hawksbill hatchlings in Malacca	31
4.2	Regression of egg diameter (mm) on hatchling weight (g) of hawksbill hatchlings in Malacca	31
4.3	The concentration ($\mu\text{g/g}$ dry wt.) of each heavy metals determined in the yolk of fresh and un-hatched turtle eggs along with the concentration values	32

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

g	-	gram
μ	-	micro
dw	-	dry weight
ww	-	wet weight

LIST OF APPENDICES

- Appendix I: Hawksbill hatchling measurements
- Appendix II: Mean value of measurements on eggs and hatchlings from 5 random nests.
- Appendix III: Out put of T-test analysis

ABSTRACT

A study on the hawksbill turtle eggs and hatchlings was conducted from June to October, 2007 in Malacca. A total of 28 nests incubated in the beach hatchery ($n = 14$) and styrofoam box ($n = 14$) were monitored every night for hatchlings emergence and the incubation period. Measurements of hatchlings ($n = 20$ per clutch) produced from those 28 nests were also taken. T-test analysis showed no significant difference between beach hatchery and styrofoam box for the incubation period and hatchlings size. Hawksbill eggs from Malacca had an average diameter of 23.3 cm while average straight carapace length and width and body weight of hatchlings were 3.93cm and 2.96 cm, and 13.1 g respectively. Regression analysis showed a positive correlation between size of eggs with hatchlings size and mass. Concentration of heavy metal (Cd, Cu, Hg, Mn, Pb and Zn $\mu\text{g/g}$ wet wt.) in hawksbill fresh eggs were also analyzed in this study. All the value ($\mu\text{g/g}$ wet wt.) of these metals (Cd, Cu, Mn, Pb and Zn) was lower than the permissible limits set by Malaysian Food Regulation (1985) except for Hg. On the other hand, the mean concentrations of heavy metals in fresh and un-hatched eggs showed no significant differences in this study. Thus, a non-killing method of heavy metal monitoring using un-hatched turtle eggs can be implemented in further study..

KAJIAN TELUR DAN ANAK PENYU KARAH (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) DI MELAKA : ANALISIS MORFOMETRIK DAN LOGAM BERAT

ABSTRAK

Kajian terhadap telur dan anak penyu karah telah dijalankan di Melaka pada Jun hingga ke Oktober, 2007. Sebanyak 28 sarang yang dieram di pantai hatcheri ($n = 14$) dan kotak styrofoam ($n = 14$) telah dijaga dan diperhati setiap malam untuk mendapatkan bacaan tempoh pengeraman dan masa penetasan anak penyu yang tepat. Dua puluh ekor anak penyu dari setiap sarang yang menetas daripada 28 sarang tersebut telah dibuat pengukuran ke atas saiz badan mereka. Analisis T-test menunjukkan bahawa tiada perbezaan pada tempoh pengeraman and saiz anak penyu yang dihasilkan di pantai hatcheri dan kotak styrofoam. Telur penyu karah mempunyai purata diameter sebanyak 23.3 cm manakala purata panjang dan lebar karapas dan berat badan anak penyu masing-masing adalah sebanyak 3.93 cm dan 2.96 cm, dan 13.1 g. Analisis regresi menunjukkan suatu hubungan positif di antara saiz telur dengan saiz dan berat anak penyu. Kepekatan logam berat (Cd, Cu, Hg, Mn, Pb, Zn $\mu\text{g/g}$ berat basah) di dalam telur penyu karah yang segar juga telah dianalisis di dalam kajian ini. Kesemua nilai kepekatan ($\mu\text{g/g}$ wet wt.) logam bagi Cd, Cu, Mn, Pb and Zn adalah lebih rendah daripada tahap yang dibenarkan oleh Peraturan Pemakanan Malaysia (1985) kecuali Hg. Di samping itu, hampir semua logam berat yang dianalisis di dalam telur segar and rosak mempunyai kepekatan yang agak sama. Oleh itu, suatu kaedah yang tidak melibatkan kematian atau kerosakan dalam mengkaji kepekatan logam berat dengan menggunakan telur penyu yang rosak boleh dilaksanakan pada kajian selanjutnya.