

Comparative anatomy study of female reproductor system between green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) and leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*)

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The sea turtle has been living for 180 million years and survived to several changes in the earth, nowadays there are seven living species and five them occurs in brazilian coast. Among them we can found the Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) and Leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) that had their female reproductive system compared as the target of this research. Were used anatomical parts of one female Green turtle and one female Leatherback turtle both adults and found dead in Pernambuco cost in 2003. Their pleuroperitoneal cavity was opened and plastron, muscle and fat were removed to expose the interested organs. The pleuroperitoneal membrane was sectioned and after the withdrawal of the liver, intestines and stomach the oviduct and its ligaments were removed as well as rectum, bladder and cloaca. Pictures were taken for documentation. It was observed in Leatherback turtle, the presence of 200 eggs and the ligaments that hold the static of the organ entering into the body cavity aforesaid, craniolaterally to the lungs. Each oviduct measured about 4m in length, was small in the beginning and gradually increasing in diameter up to its discharge that prolongs inside the cloaca similar to the uterine cervix of mammals, lateroventrally to openings of the urethra and dorsolaterally to openings of the rectum It was observed the presence of a structure similar to copulatory organ on female mammals clitoris, with 4,5 cm, located in the middle third of the cloaca, that average of 60 cm in length. In the green turtle, there was the presence of small eggs and the ligaments, which maintain the static body also entering into the cavity pleuroperitoneal, craniolaterally to the lungs. Each oviduct measured about 1,5 m in length, was small in the beginning and gradually increasing in diameter up to its discharge which was going directly into cloaca, lateroventrally to openings of the urethra and dorsolatarally to openings of the rectum. The cloaca measured about 25 cm. It was observed the presence of a structure similar to copulatory organ on female mammals clitoris too although measuring 0,5 cm only. Through this study, it was possible to conclude that there are significant differences between the morphometric “clitoris” of the specimens. For other structures, no significant differences were found.