

## Comparative anatomy study of the stomachs between green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) and leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*)

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To study the anatomy of the wild animals is of basic importance to clarify some questions that appears on the behavior and the evolution of the species, such as sea turtles that are vertebrates in the order of reptiles, that belongs to the Cheloniidae group. The leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) is carnivore, and its diet includes jellyfishes and its accompanying fauna. The green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) until 30 cm, eats essentially aquatic crustaceans, insects, sea grass and seaweed. It is the only sea turtle that is strictly herbivorous in their maturity. In this report, it was aimed to provide anatomical features of the stomach of these animals. Twelve green turtle found dead in Pernambuco sea coast, young and adults, were used in this report. As well one leatherback turtle, female, found dead in Suape beach in the city of Cabo de Santo Agostinho with approximately 750 kg, total length of 217 cm and width of 121 cm. In the Laboratory of Anatomy at UFRPE, there was the opening of the head ventral face, between the mandibular branches and cervical region, withdrawing the hyoid and the tongue, larynx, trachea, bronchi, lungs, esophagus and stomach. Both species had their stomachs separated for specific study of the organ. The leatherback turtle had the stomach with a tubular aspect similar to the esophagus, with 235 cm of length, distributed external in rectilinear form and with bends, had the aspect of linked enteric handle sometimes rectilinear sometimes bend. Were observed too bags similar to structures called haustra in horses cecum. These bags are delimited in its macroscopic external aspect for macroscopic furrows and internally for folds in ring form, in a total of 14. There was the presence of liquid mucous in the stomach lining corresponding to remaining feed portions. The Green turtle had a stomach in form of 'J' and was more simple than the Leatherback's turtle. There were two separated compartments: one larger, as a bag, near the esophagus and the other smaller, near the duodenum, both separated by a constriction. For confusing plastic bags with anemones, jellyfishes and caravels, the leatherback turtles ingest the material by mistake and end up dying because the bags are trapped in the folds of the stomach. There are needs for more activities aimed at environmental education, in order to alert the population about the extinction danger of sea turtles, which has as the main consequence the ecological imbalance causing the increase of the seaweed population and others foresaid animals what places the health of human beings at risk.