

Grosse, A.M. and E. Levesque. 2014. *Malaclemys terrapin centrata* (Carolina Diamondback Terrapin): Twinning. *Herpetological Review* 45(4):689-690.

***MALACLEMYS TERRAPIN CENTRATA*** (Carolina Diamondback Terrapin).  
TWINNING. On 3 July 2014 a clutch of 9 eggs collected from a female diamondback terrapin originating from Charleston Harbor, SC (carapace length = 195.0 mm, plastron length = 174.0 mm, carapace width = 149.0 mm, depth = 81.0 mm, mass = 1234.0 g), began hatching after incubating for 49 days at a constant temperature of 88°F (31°C). Initially, only four eggs hatched successfully producing 4 hatchlings that averaged 31.1 mm carapace length, 27.4 mm plastron length, 26.7 mm carapace width, 15.9 mm depth and a mass of 8.7 g. On 4 July 2014 the fifth and final egg of the clutch hatched, revealing two hatchlings joined together by the external yolk (Figure 1). While both individuals were undersized, one was significantly larger than the other (Larger hatchling: carapace length = 25.5 mm, plastron length = 21.3 mm, carapace width = 20.5 mm, depth = 12.7 mm, mass = 4.33 g; Smaller hatchling: carapace length = 18.0 mm, plastron length = 14.5 mm, carapace width = 15.7 mm, depth = 10.4 mm, mass = 1.91 g). Both hatchlings were washed with deionized water, placed in a plastic container with moist paper towels and replaced in the same incubator. Each day, the moist paper towels were replaced, containers were cleaned and the hatchlings were placed back into the incubator. After 3 days the hatchlings separated from one another naturally. By 9 August 2014 both hatchlings' plastrons were completely healed and they were placed in water and offered food (Figure 2). By 25 August 2014, both hatchlings had eaten small amounts of fish and periwinkle snails, were alert and seemed to be in good health.

Identical twin diamondback terrapins, attached by the external yolk, have been reported previously by Hildebrand (Hildebrand 1938. Twinning in Turtles, *Journal of Heredity*, 29(7):243-254); however, this was the only example he observed in over 25 years and an estimated 100,000 artificially hatched diamondback terrapin eggs in Beaufort, NC. The twins were said to be well formed, although slightly undersized, measuring about 18 mm in length. Shortly after discovery, both individuals were said to have died.

Submitted by **ANDREW M. GROSSE** (e-mail: grossea@dnr.sc.gov) and **ERIN M. LEVESQUE** (e-mail: levesquee@dnr.sc.gov), South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, Marine Resources Research Institute, 217 Fort Johnson Road, Charleston, South Carolina, 29412.

Grosse, A.M. and E. Levesque. 2014. *Malaclemys terrapin centrata* (Carolina Diamondback Terrapin): Twinning. *Herpetological Review* 45(4):689-690.



Figure 1. Twin hatchling diamondback terrapins joined by the external yolk



Figure 2. Twin hatchling diamondback terrapins separated and feeding in water