

Monitoring populations is important, especially in the case of amphibians, given the well-known global decline that is taking place in this animal group. Although there are long-term population monitoring programmes (e.g. SARE programme of monitoring amphibian and reptile populations), they are based on relative estimates of abundance that only allow detection of progressive declines or sudden mortalities. The test of phytohaemagglutinin (PHA) injection enables to obtain a simple estimate of immune response. Obtaining temporal data series of a limited number of individuals would make the monitoring of populations' health status possible. This, unlike traditional monitoring methods, would allow detection of population conditions before they become mortal or cause a decline in the number of individuals, and it would make the identification of causing agents easier and faster. The PHA test is a widely used technique in other animal groups, yet it is rarely employed in amphibians or in a purpose that we suggest here. The aim of the present study is to suggest using the monitoring of health status as a method to monitor amphibian populations. We present two examples of the use of PHA test in amphibians. We show first data of a project of monitoring the suitability of the ponds created as a part of the conservation plan of the *Hyla meridionalis* population in Gipuzkoa (Basque Country). In that project, the health status of reproductive males captured in different ponds was analyzed. The second example consists of examining the relationship between immune response and genetic diversity in *Bufo calamita* adult individuals that came from isolated populations of the Basque coast with low genetic diversity or from populations close to the former ones but with greater genetic diversity.

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COMPORTAMIENTO DEL BUCEO EN CRÍAS DE TORTUGA BOBA (*CARETTA CARETTA*) EN CAUTIVERIO

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Uno de los aspectos más desconocidos de la tortuga boba, y de las tortugas marinas en general, es el comportamiento del buceo. Debido a las largas distancias que recorre la especie lejos de la costa para alimentarse, este aspecto ha sido siempre difícil de estudiar. En los últimos años, pero, algunos ejemplares adultos han sido provistos de TDR's (siglas en inglés: *time-depth recorders*) que han permitido una primera aproximación en el estudio de la duración y profundidad de la inmersiones. Aún así, son pocos los estudios previos referentes al comportamiento del buceo en los primeros meses de vida de las tortugas. El mantenimiento en cautiverio (*head-starting*) de tortugas marinas es idóneo para el desarrollo de estudios científicos en los primeros años. El proyecto de ampliación del hábitat de reproducción de *Caretta caretta* nos ha brindado la posibilidad de realizar un estudio del comportamiento del buceo. En el presente trabajo, se han controlado los tiempos de inmersión y la profundidad de las mismas en los primeros meses de vida de la especie criada en cautividad. El desarrollo experimental del estudio ha permitido observar los distintos comportamientos en el buceo en función de varias variables.

The diving behaviour of the loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*) is one of the most unknown aspects of this specie. Research about this issue has been usually difficult due to the long distances movements sea turtles do to feed. However, in the last years, TDR's (*time-depth recorders*) have been attached to the shells of some individuals to know more about diving behaviour and movements of sea turtles. Nevertheless, only a few diving behaviour studies in the first months of live of sea turtles have been developed. The head-starting of sea turtles provides a good environment to study the first years of the specie. The habitat recovery project has allowed to study the diving behaviour of *Caretta caretta*. In this work, dive duration and dive depth were recorded in forty hatchling loggerhead turtles in captivity, observing that diving behaviour depends on several variables.