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Is Sea Turtles Emergence Only for Preparing Nest or Only for Clutching? **(Deniz Kaplumbağaları Sahile Sadece Yuva Hazırlamak veya Yumurtlamak İçin mi Çıkar?)**

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Dear Editor,

At the end the nesting season, July 2008, a female green sea turtle emerged without nesting in Samandağ beach, examined for reproductive ultrasonographic screening of the turtle's reproductive organs and for detecting stage of the developing eggs or follicles on ovaries or oviduct. The green turtle landed and started to return to the sea without preparing a nest or without clutching. Turtle was stopped just before reaching to the sea for sampling for a scientific project. Reproductive ultrasonic examinations applied in field condition without sedative or anesthetic medications applications from inguinal aperture when turtle staying on their carapace. A portable ultrasound machine with 5.0-7.5

MHz frequency convex probe (Falco, Pie Medical) was used for examinations. In the ultrasonographic examination the eggs were immature and she hadn't ready for leaving the eggs (Fig. 1). The mean diameters of the eggs were 2.74 cm ($SE \pm 0.13$), diameter of the oviduct was 4.9 cm and germinal disc diameter was 0.56 cm. (Mustafa Kemal University, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine Ethics Committee decision number: 23).

This data indicates that the eggs are immature and she hadn't ready for leaving the eggs. In the last 8 years in the monitoring studies of the Samandağ beaches there is not clutching reported without shell. Previous studies indicates that at the end of the nesting season the diameter of vitellus were about 2.93 cm ($SE \pm 0.07$),

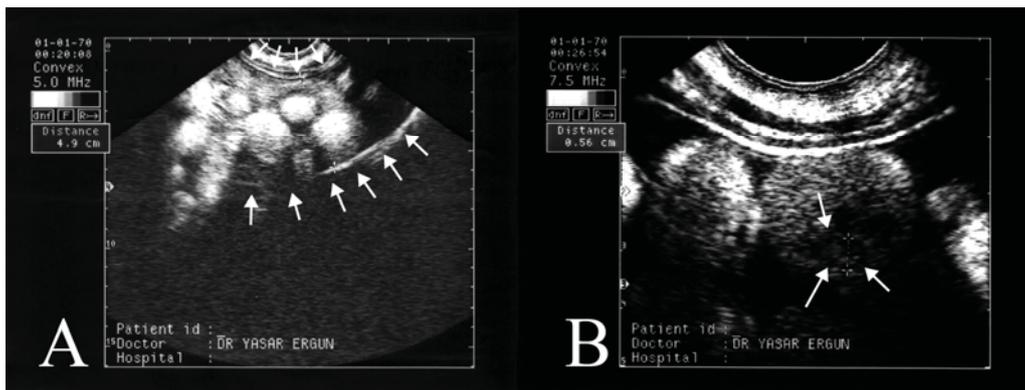


Fig 1. Ultrasonographic images of the eggs without shell and it is measurements of the some structures. **(A)** Oviduct border (arrows) and diameter of the oviduct in 5.0 MHz frequency and 16 cm deep. **(B)** Two eggs without shell in oviduct and germinal disc (arrows) in 7.5 MHz frequency and 5 cm deep

Şekil 1. Kabuksuz yumurtanın ultrasonografik görüntüsü ve bazı yapıları. **(A)** Ovidukt sınırı (oklar) ve oviduktun çapının 5 MHz frekans ve 16 cm derinlikte görünümü. **(B)** 7.5 MHz frekans ve 5 cm derinlikte ovidukta iki kabuksuz yumurta ve germinal diskin (oklar) görünümü



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the diameter of germinal disc were 0.85 cm (SE±0.26) and the diameter of the oviduct were 5.25 (SE±0.49)¹. Therefore, why did she emergence the beach? In our classical knowledge; turtles are going to coasts just for clutching and if they are disturbed by any reason they can return without clutching². Researchers records many reason to explain the non-nesting emergences of sea turtle. These reason are generally based on human and/or supernatural events³⁻⁷. In addition to these explanations another reason which is researching the overall nesting area might be another reason of emergence to the beach. This case may be showed that, sea turtles sometimes landing for exploring the coast or may be for detecting the status of the coast for future landings for clutching or for another reason.

Hays⁸ indicated that green turtles conserved energy by resting on the sea bed during the inter nesting period. If the clutching is energy consume activities why female green sea turtles spend energy in vain by emerging to the beach? Hypothesis can be suggested as a reason of this occasion: females emergences are not only for clutching, they can be emerge for researching the nesting conditions, This knowledge can be corrected after further studies on sea turtles which landed without preparing a nest.

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