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The Effect of the Thermal Environment on the Ability of Hatchling Galapagos Land Iguanas to Avoid Predation During Dispersal

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Summary. During the month of February 1979, several hundred hatchling land iguanas (*Conolophus pallidus*) were observed emerging from their natal burrows in a 2 ha communal nesting area on Isla Santa Fe, Galapagos Islands. During this emergence, as many as nine Galapagos hawks were observed to patrol the nesting area and attack hatchling iguanas.

The hypothesis that the ability of hatchling land iguanas to escape predation could be influenced by the interaction of the physiological state of the lizards and the thermal environment was analyzed using (1) empirical data on the effect of body temperature (T_b) on locomotory ability of iguanas and (2) biophysical modeling of the T_b 's of hatchlings under natural conditions. This hypothesis was tested by assessing the success of natural hawk attacks on lizards exposed to different thermal environments.

During those periods when predicted T_b 's of hatchlings were always $< 32^\circ\text{C}$, (at which temperatures land iguanas were shown to have less than maximal ability to sprint rapidly) hawks were successful in 67% of the observed attacks. However, when T_b 's of hatchlings were always $\geq 32^\circ\text{C}$, hawks were successful on only 19% of observed attacks. During periods when hatchling T_b 's could be $< 32^\circ\text{C}$ or $32\text{--}40^\circ\text{C}$ (depending upon which microhabitat the hatchling occupied before the attack), the hawks were successful in 46% of the observed attacks.

These data indicate that the physical environment, as mediated through the physiological state of the lizards and to correlated locomotory abilities, significantly affects the ability of hatchling land iguanas to escape predation.

Introduction

An attack on prey by a predator is a uniquely clear-cut event in terms of natural selection; the prey either escapes, or is killed (Curio 1976). The direct relationship between predator avoidance and Darwinian fitness dictates that the mechanisms by which prey species escape predation be regarded as fundamentally important to our understanding of ecological and evolutionary principles of predator-prey interactions.

The thermal environment certainly can influence the vulnerability of ectothermic vertebrates to predation (Porter et al. 1973). In a theoretical discussion of lizard thermoregulation, Huey and Slatkin (1976) surmised that the ability to escape predation is "undoubtedly a function of body temperature". Huey and Stevenson (1979) have suggested that measurements of an animal's "performance" (e.g. rate of growth, locomotory

ability, reproductive rate and others) over a broad range of body temperatures (T_b) can be useful in interpreting the ecological consequences of body temperature as a physiological state. For example, Greenwald (1974) has experimentally demonstrated that the velocity of the strike of a gopher snake (*Pituophis melanoleucus*) and the consequent success of catching prey are directly dependent upon the snake's body temperature.

While no direct measure of the functional relationship between body temperature and predator avoidance by an ectotherm has been published, indirect evidence of such a relationship exists. Rand (1964) demonstrated that lizards compensate for suboptimal T_b (presumably suboptimal performance) by increasing the approach distance (i.e. the minimum distance a prey species will permit potential predators to approach before initiating escape). Fox (1978) demonstrated that individual side-blotched lizards, *Uta stansburiana*, had higher probability of survival under heavy predation when they could exploit conditions of clear skies and warm temperatures. These studies and others (reviewed by Heatwole 1976) provide indirect evidence of a relationship between T_b and ability of lizards to escape predation.

Microclimatic data have been used in conjunction with energy balance models to investigate aspects of predator-prey interactions (Riechert and Tracy 1975; Porter et al. 1973; Porter and Tracy 1974; and Porter et al. 1975). In general, these models have been used to compare the daily and seasonal activity patterns of predators and their prey (each of which can be predicted with respect to "optimum" T_b 's) to predict periods of temporal overlap, during which predation is expected to occur. Empirical data on the modeled systems are lacking, however.

In this study we combine biophysical modeling to predict T_b with empirical data on physiological performance as a function of T_b to predict the ability of a lizard to escape predation. We then compare our predictions with observed results of 128 attacks by the Galapagos hawk (*Buteo galapagoensis*) on hatchling land iguanas (*Conolophus pallidus*) at a communal nesting site on Santa Fe (Barrington) Island, Galapagos.

Area and Organisms

The study was conducted on Isla Santa Fe of the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador. Santa Fe is a low, uplifted island with an area of 2,413 ha. Tree cactus (*Opuntia echinos*), the Palo Santo tree (*Bursera graveolens*), and two shrub species (*Cordia lutea* and *Lantana peduncularis*) constitute the dominant vegetation over most of the island. There are a few isolated patches on the island characterized by soils of loose red cinders and populated by short (approx. 1 m tall) shrubs, *Euclelia hispida* (deVries 1973, and pers. obs.). These areas are used by the female iguanas for nesting. The nesting site was a flat area with relative-

ly little vegetational cover and essentially no cover in the form of rock crevices that occur virtually everywhere else on the island. By far the dominant vegetation in the nesting area was the shrub *Encelia hispida* which neither adult nor hatchling were ever observed to eat.

During the course of an extensive study of the land iguana a communal nesting site was discovered. Aggregations of nesting lizards previously have been reported only for a few iguanines (see Wiewandt 1980). Approximately 300 female land iguanas were observed nesting in a single area of about 2 ha during October and November 1978. A detailed description of the movements and nesting behavior of female iguanas during 1978 will be presented elsewhere (Christian and Tracy, 1981).

Emergence of hatchlings occurred the February following nesting. The hatchlings were approximately 10 cm (S-V length) and 40 g (body mass). On five occasions, aggregations of 6–10 hatchlings were seen basking and moving about as a group. Because the hatchlings were extremely skittish and ran away from us before lengthy observations could be made, we were not able to compare the details of their behavior with that of other hatchling iguanines (Burghart et al., 1977 and Greene et al. 1978).

During the nesting in October and November, one or two hawks were seen regularly in the vicinity of the nesting area, usually soaring high above the ground en route to some other part of the island; occasionally one or two would perch within or adjacent to the nesting area. During February, when hatchlings emerged from nests as many as nine hawks were seen perching and hunting in the area. At the peak time of hatching (mid February) there were typically 5–7 hawks in the area, preying on the hatchlings. By mid March, hawks were again only occasionally seen in the area.

Experimental Methods

The sprint rate (i.e. the maximum speed at which an animal will run over a short distance from a standstill) and its dependence on T_b was used as a measure of the physiological capability of lizards to avoid predation. Data were collected on seven individuals whose body temperatures were varied between 15–40° C by using an ice bath to cool the animals and the sun to heat them. (Due to the difficult logistics of getting ice to the uninhabited island of Santa Fe, we were unable to conduct this experiment after hatchlings emerged. Thus the data were collected from lizards ranging in size from 140–7,000 g but no newly emerged hatchlings were tested.) An elastic harness was fastened around the pectoral region of each iguana, and a long (approximately 4 m) nylon cord leash was tied to the harness. This made it possible to recapture the iguanas after each sprint. Sprinting was induced by prodding and/or chasing the animals. Each iguana was allowed to sprint a distance of 5–15 body lengths. All iguanas were sprinted once and then allowed to rest for a period of several minutes before being sprinted again (iguanas could not be induced to sprint until they "recovered" from the previous sprint). After three consecutive sprints each iguana was allowed to rest at least one hour before being sprinted again. All lizards were sprinted at the same temperatures on different days to ensure that time and/or experience at sprinting did not influence the sprint rates of the lizards. Three or four people independently timed each sprint to the nearest 0.1 s with a stopwatch. The distances from the beginning to the end of the sprints were measured to the nearest cm with a tape. The sprint experiments were conducted on the rocky substrate typical of the island. Sprints that progressed into rocks and shrubs undoubtedly increased the variance in the sprint rates, but a more uniform substrate was not available in the field. The T_b of each iguana was measured to the nearest 0.5° C immediately after the sprint by using mercury thermometers (temperatures just before and just after sprints were not discernibly different). The sprint rate was calculated as $m\ s^{-1}$. The sprint rates for each individual were normalized to that individual's fastest sprint.

Observations were made during the month of February at the nesting area by one or two observers each day. The hawks usually attacked the hatchlings from a perch (tree or tall rockpile), but occasionally hunted by soaring over the area. In either case, an attack by a hawk or hawks was an obvious event because of the speed

and deliberateness of their stoop. After the hawk was on the ground, the observer moved closer to see if it had been successful at capturing a hatchling.

In addition to noting whether or not the attack was "successful" (implying that the hawk captured its prey), the following information was recorded for each observed attack: time of day, air temperature (T_a) at approximately 2 m above the ground surface, temperature of the soil surface (T_s), and a qualitative description of the sky conditions (i.e. sunny, cloudy, partly cloudy). Additional microclimatic data were taken at the nesting area on 12–13 January 1979. These data included air temperatures and wind speeds at five heights above the ground (10, 20, 50, 100, and 200 cm); soil surface temperatures in the sun and shade; subsurface soil temperatures (at depths of 10, 20 and 30 cm); hemispherical solar and thermal radiation. All temperatures were measured with a 28 gauge copper/constantan thermocouple wire, and the temperatures were read from a Wescor (Model TH-60) thermocouple thermometer. Wind speeds were measured simultaneously with a Rimeco miniature cup anemometer set. Hemispherical solar radiation was measured with a Moll-Gorzinski solarimeter in conjunction with a Keithley microvoltmeter.

Energy Exchange Model

The body temperature of a hatchling lizard is determined by the thermal energy exchange between the organism and its environment (Bakken and Gates 1975). An energy exchange model for a small lizard can be reduced to a simple energy balance when: (1) the metabolic heat production and evaporative heat loss rates are negligible relative to radiative and convective (Bartlett and Gates 1967, Porter et al. 1973, and Porter and James 1979); (2) the lizard's typical compartment is such that little of its body surface comes into contact with the substrate, thereby essentially eliminating heat exchange by conduction from the substrate (see Bartlett and Gates 1967, Porter et al. 1973, and Porter and James 1979); and (3) the biological questions asked do not depend upon knowledge of the pattern or timing of change in body temperature while the lizard undergoes thermal transients (Spotila et al. 1973), or when the time constant of body temperature change is negligible relative to the length of events in question (Riechert and Tracy 1975). (Our calculations of the time constant [see Porter et al. 1973] of a 40 g hatchling land iguana show that the time constant of a hatchling will rarely exceed 8 min). We assumed that for the nature of the biological questions addressed, all three conditions could be adequately met. Thus, the energy balance model reduced to

$$Q_{sw} = \epsilon\sigma(T_l^4 - T_r^4) + h_c(T_l - T_a) \quad (1)$$

where Q_{sw} is the absorbed short-wave solar radiation ($W \cdot m^{-2}$) from all sources; $(T_l^4 - T_r^4)$ is the net long-wave infrared radiation exchange ($W \cdot m^{-2}$) between the lizard (whose surface temperature is T_l) and the environment (with an average temperature T_r); $h_c(T_l - T_a)$ is the convective heat exchange ($W \cdot m^{-2}$) between the lizard and air; h_c is the convective heat transfer coefficient which depends upon the size of the animal and the speed and turbulence of the air passing over the surface of the animal; and ϵ is the emissivity (and absorptivity) of the lizard to thermal radiation; and σ is the Stephan-Boltzmann constant.

The convection coefficient, h_c , was computed from a modification of the equation presented by Mitchell (1976)

$$h_c = K_1 K_2 V^{0.6} L^{-0.4}$$

where K_1 is a constant determined by the shape of the organism (we used the (2) suggested [Mitchell 1976] $5.53\ J\ s^{-0.4}\ cm^{-0.2}\ K^{-1}$); K_2 is a constant accounting for the enhancement of convection due to turbulence in air (we fit an equation to the enhancement relation of Kowalski and Mitchell 1976: $K_2 = 171 -$

$0.007(z/L)$, where z is the height of the lizard above the ground (cm) and L is the "characteristic dimension" of the lizard; L is calculated as $L = m^{0.33}$ where m is the mass of the animal (g); and V is the wind speed (cm/s).

Short wave radiation absorbed by hatchlings was calculated using the equations of Porter and Gates (1969) and Tracy (1976) and radiation measured from the sky. The proportion of a lizard's surface area receiving direct-beam solar radiation is the ratio of the lizard's silhouette area (A_s) to the total surface area (A). Total surface area was measured using the method of Porter and James (1979). Silhouette areas were measured with a planimeter from photographs of hatchlings. The ratio A_s/A was greatest (0.33) when the sun was directly overhead and the hatchlings were in a prostrate posture.

Scattered short-wave radiation from the sky and from the ground were each assumed to fall incident on half of the total surface area of the lizard. The relative amounts of short-wave radiation measured with the pyranometer that was either scattered skylight or direct-beam radiation (Porter and Gates 1969) was calculated by the method of Tracy et al. (submitted).

The actual amount of radiation absorbed by the lizards is related to the absorptive property of the lizard's skin (a). We measured the reflectivity of hatchling lizards using a reflectance sphere of the same size and view-port dimensions as the reflectance sphere of a Beckman DK-2A spectroradiometer. The sphere had three view-ports: one to allow admittance of a solar beam; one which would receive the direct solar beam and which was covered with the lizard's skin (intact lizards could be impressed over this port); and one from which reflected radiation could be measured (we used a Kettering Radiometer to measure the reflected radiation). The inside of the sphere was painted with BaO₂ paint, and the radiation source used in the reflectance sphere experiments was normal clear-day solar radiation near midday in the Galapagos. The reflectance of a lizard's skin (r_s) was computed as the ratio of radiation measured from the sphere with the lizard skin covering the test view-port relative to the radiation measured from the sphere when a BaO₂ reference covered the test port. Using this method, the solar absorptance of the hatchlings was computed to be $(1 - r_s)$ or 0.89.

The proportion of radiation reflected from the substrate, r , was computed to be the ratio of energy measured with the pyranometer facing directly at the ground relative to the energy measured with the pyranometer facing directly toward the sun. The reflectance of the ground was measured to be 0.10.

The average temperature of the radiative environment, T_r , was taken to be the simple average of the temperature of the sky and the ground:

$$T_r = (T_{sky} + T_{ground})/2 \quad (3)$$

where the temperature of the ground was measured with a field thermometer, and the temperature of the sky was computed from the Brunt Equation (Gates 1962)

$$T_{sky} = [T_a^4 / (0.44 + 0.008(e/100)^{0.5})]^{1/4} \quad (4)$$

where e is the vapor density of the air at screen height (2 m from the ground.)

A summary of model parameters are given in Table 1, and an example of the daily pattern of meteorological variables at the nesting sites is given in Fig. 1.

In order to simplify calculation of Eq. 1, we used a linear approximation of the net radiation term (see Campbell 1978). Thus, the temperature of the lizard could be computed from the modified energy balance as

$$T_L = [h_c T_a + \epsilon \sigma 4T_a^3 T_r + Q_{sw}] / [h_c + \epsilon \sigma 4T_a^3] \quad (5)$$

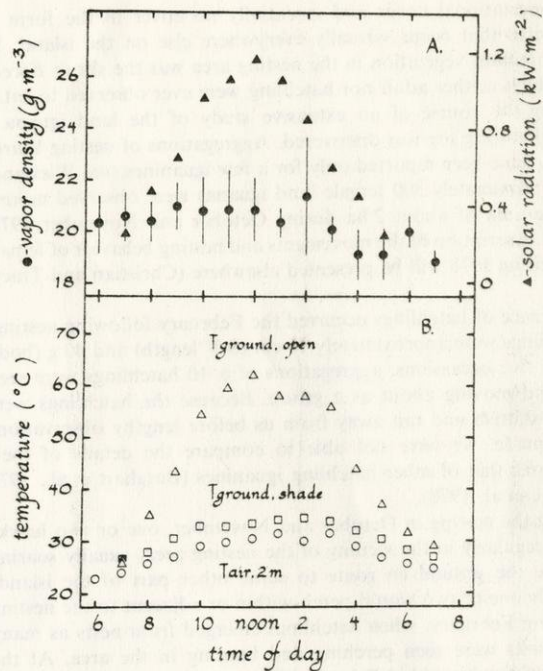


Fig. 1A, B. The daily pattern of meteorological variables for a typical day at the nesting site. A Means and standard deviations of vapor density measured on six days during the warm season when hatching occurs, and solar radiation measured on a single sunny day in mid January. B Temperatures of air, ground in the sun, and ground in the shade for a single sunny day in mid January. The data presented in (A) were used in computing lizard temperatures whereas (B) is presented only to indicate the general conditions of the warm season in which hatching occurred. Temperatures required for the simulation were measured at the site of each hawk attack

Using the energy balance equation we were able to predict T_b of each of the hatchlings involved in the 128 observed instances of hawk attacks. Since we did not know exactly what the hatchlings were doing immediately before an attack, we calculated, for each observation, T_b 's for two potential interactions with the environment: (1) the hottest interaction, in which we assumed that the hatchling was positioned in the open for some time before the attack occurred; and (2) the coolest case, in which we assumed that the hatchling had been in the shade of a shrub until immediately before the attack. Hatchlings on the nesting area were never seen climbing in shrubs, which would have resulted in an even cooler interaction. (We did observe hatchlings climbing in *Lantana* shrubs after dispersal to other parts of the island.) The calculated body temperatures were compared with the sprint rate curve for the iguanas in order to make predictions about the ability of the hatchlings to sprint and thus escape from hawks.

The Hypotheses

Three behavioral activities were presumed to be important for the hatchlings upon emergence from their natal burrows. (1) dispersal from the nesting area to other parts of the island; (2) thermoregulation; and (3) avoidance of predators.

During February 1979 hatchlings dispersed from the nesting area within a day or two after emergence. The nesting area represented the least desirable habitat in which the hatchlings should remain because it (1) apparently contained no food, (2) had essentially no protective cover with which to avoid predators.

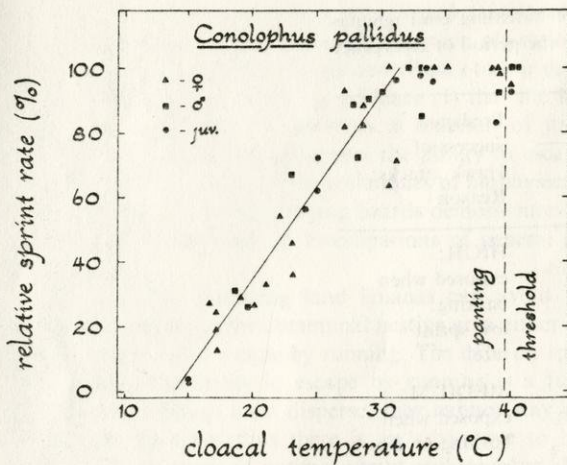


Fig. 2. Sprint rates of individual Galapagos land iguanas normalized to each individual's fastest sprint as a function of body temperature (T_b). The data are from 3♀ and 3♂ adults and a 140 g juvenile. The line is a least squares fit for the data where $T_b \leq 30^\circ\text{C}$. The average panting threshold was 39.5°C .

and (3) it attracted a very high predator density. Thus, dispersal from the nesting area to other areas of the island with relatively more food and cover was a critically important activity for the hatchlings.

Thermoregulatory behavior appeared to be important to the hatchlings since the young lizards were observed to begin basking immediately after emerging from their nests. Regulation of body temperature is presumably necessary for the efficient digestion of residual yolk retained by hatchlings. Thermoregulation is also a significant influence on the efficiency with which a hatchling can avoid predation.

Predator avoidance was a key behavior because of the large concentration of hawks that exploited the annual emergence of hatchlings. We observed 128 attacks by hawks in which we could determine the success or failure of the hawk in capturing a hatchling. The hawks tended to attack when hatchlings were out in the open, apparently because the hatchlings were more conspicuous than when they remained motionless under shrubs, and also because of the difficulty and potential danger for the hawks in diving through shrubs to seize a hatchling.

Results and Conclusions

Normalized sprint rates as a function of body temperature are shown in Fig. 2. At the lower range of temperatures the sprint rate increases linearly with an increase in T_b . In order to estimate the mean maximal sprint rate from this linearly increasing portion we fit a linear equation by regression to all data collected at $T_b \leq 30^\circ\text{C}$. The intercept of the equation with a line of 100% of maximal sprint was taken to be the T_b at which the mean maximal sprint occurred (32°C). In the middle range of temperatures, the sprint rates level off, producing a plateau that extends at least to the panting threshold which is, on the average, 39.5°C (Christian et al. in prep.). Presumably, the sprint rates would drop off with a slight increase in T_b above the panting threshold. However, because *Conolophus pallidus* is an endangered species, we did not expose them to extreme heat stress.

All sprints of the iguanas were likely to be powered with anaerobic metabolism, and thus an oxygen debt was certainly accumulated with each sprint. It is likely that the lizards, then, were not at resting levels of lactate at each sprint (Pough 1980),

Table 1. List of parameters used in the energy budget model

Symbol	Description	value	units
a	absorptivity of hatchlings to short-wave solar radiation	0.89	dimensionless
A_s/A	proportion of hatchling surface area receiving solar radiation	0.33	dimensionless
ϵ	thermal emissivity (and absorptivity) of hatchlings	0.95	dimensionless
K_1	shape coefficient for convection coefficient of hatchlings	5.53	$\text{J s}^{-0.4} \text{cm}^{-0.2} \text{K}^{-1}$
m	mass of hatchlings	40.0	g
r	reflectivity of the substrate to short-wave radiation	0.10	dimensionless
σ	Stephan-Boltzmann Constant	5.67×10^{-8}	$\text{W m}^{-2} \text{K}^{-4}$
z	height of the lizard above the substrate	1.5	cm

but (a) the rest periods probably allowed the lizards to recover sufficiently to sprint at maximal levels, and (b) the sprints were probably conducted at lactate levels typical of those for a free ranging lizard during dispersal. Furthermore, we compared the sprint rates of the first sprint of the day for each individual to the sprint rates of the individuals (at the same body temperature) after they had been sprinted an average of nine times (with rest periods as described earlier), and the sprint rates were statistically identical ($\bar{X} = 2.21 \pm 0.26 \text{ m/s}$ for the first sprints and $\bar{X} = 2.01 \pm 0.56 \text{ m/s}$ for the ninth sprint). Moreover, we have collected data on another iguanid, *Dipsosaurus dorsalis* (Tracy unpublished data), which suggests that the functional relationship between relative sprint-rate and body temperature is the same for moderately exhausted animals and for completely fresh animals. Thus, it seems reasonable to assume that our sprint experiments reflect the influence of body temperature on the relative locomotory ability of hatchlings to avoid predators.

The relationship between sprint rate and T_b was then used to define thermal environments in terms of the physiological state of the lizards as determined by the thermal environmental interaction (Mason and Langenheim 1957). Three environments were outlined: COOL, where $T_b < 32^\circ\text{C}$; WARM, where $32 \leq T_b \leq 40^\circ\text{C}$; and HOT, where $T_b > 40$ (40°C was selected as the transition between a WARM and HOT environment because at 40°C lizards conspicuously pant, presumably to lower their temperature).

A pair of T_b 's was calculated for each hatchling observed to be attacked by a predator; one assumed the hatchling was as cool as possible for that time of the day and day of the year, and the other assumed the hatchling was in the warmest possible microclimate. The first two columns of Table 2 present this dual-limit characterization of the thermal environment. Thus, early in the morning and late in the evening the environmental conditions were COOL-COOL (first row, Table 2) because it was impossible for a hatchling to have a $T_b \geq 32^\circ\text{C}$ during those periods. Later in the morning, conditions under the shrubs were COOL, but out in the open it was WARM (second row, Table 2). During the middle of the day conditions were WARM under the shrubs and HOT in the open (third row). Other permutations are theoretically possible (i.e. COOL-HOT or HOT-HOT), but these thermal environments did not exist on Santa Fe during February 1979.

Given these environmental conditions, we made predictions concerning the three behaviors discussed above (thermoregulatory, predator avoidance, and dispersal) (Table 2). Predictions for

Table 2. Summary of thermal environmental conditions, predicted behaviors of hatchling land iguanas and predicted success of Galapagos Hawks preying on iguana hatchlings during the period of emergence of iguanas from their natal burrows in February, 1979

Environmental Conditions		Predicted Behaviors			Predicted success of Hawk attacks: Reason
Under shrubs (Predicted T_b)	In Open (Predicted T_b)	Thermo-regulatory	Predator Avoidance	Dispersal	
COOL ($T_b < 32^\circ$)	COOL ($T_b < 32^\circ$)	bask in open or remain under shrubs ^a	stay under shrubs	no dispersal	HIGH: exposed when basking; low sprint rate
COOL ($T_b < 32^\circ$)	WARM ($T_b = 32^\circ-40^\circ$)	bask in open	stay under shrubs	dispersal when warm	MEDIUM: exposed when basking or dispersing; possibly low sprint rate ^b
WARM ($T_b = 32^\circ-40^\circ$)	HOT ($T_b > 40^\circ$)	stay under shrubs ^c	stay under shrubs	dispersal	LOW: exposed only when dispersing; high sprint rate

^a basking should only occur if T_b can become higher as a result.

^b low sprint rate would occur if a hatchling just began basking and still had a low T_b .

^c basking is never required in order to have maximal sprint rate.

different behaviors often conflicted with one another. For example, the prediction for predator avoidance (Table 2) is always to stay under the shrubs (i.e. to remain inconspicuous), which conflicts with the predictions for thermoregulation during cooler conditions and for dispersal during warmer conditions. If prevailing conditions were WARM-HOT, the prediction for thermoregulation would be to stay under the shrubs since a hatchling there could maintain an optimal T_b (in terms of sprint rate), and may, in fact, encounter a lethal T_b out in the sun. However, the hatchlings must disperse from the nesting site to areas with more food and cover. Dispersal is predicted to occur during times when WARM or HOT conditions prevail (resulting in a $T_b > 32^\circ$ C). During these periods hatchlings could attain capacity for maximal sprint rate under the protection of concealing cover, without incurring the risks of basking in the open. Thus, the hatchlings should be able to disperse from the nesting area with a maximal sprint rate and with minimal risk of predation.

The last column of Table 2 shows the predicted success of hawk attacks for each of the sets of environmental conditions. During COOL-COOL times of the day, the predicted success of the hawks is high since the hatchlings would always have a suboptimal sprint rate, and they would be exposed to predators during any basking. In COOL-WARM conditions the prediction is of intermediate success for the hawks. Under these conditions the hatchlings could have a low sprint rate if they remained under the shrubs or if they just began basking, or they could have a high sprint rate if they had been basking long enough to attain an elevated temperature. Hatchlings would be exposed to predation when basking and when dispersing. The predicted success of the hawks is low during the WARM-HOT times of day because the hatchlings would have a high sprint rate without exposing themselves during basking, and thus they need only be exposed while dispersing (they can reach optimal T_b under the protection of the shrubs when it is WARM under the shrubs).

Table 3 shows the observed success of hawk attacks for the three combinations of thermal environments. The hawks were successful at capturing a hatchling in 67% of their attacks when

Table 3. Summary of predictions of hawk success at predation on hatching iguanas and measured success percentages

Environmental Conditions	% of Typical Day Day In Which Described Environmental Conditions Existed	Predicted Success of Hawk Attacks	Observed Success of Hawk Attacks	Sample Size
COOL-COOL	29%	HIGH	67%	21
COOL-WARM	21%	MEDIUM	46%	24
WARM-HOT	50%	LOW	19%	83

the hatchlings were unable to attain a $T_b \geq 32^\circ$ C. This compares to a 46% success during WARM-HOT times when the hatchlings could have had either an optimal or suboptimal sprint rate depending on which microclimate they occupied before the attack. During periods when the hatchlings had the ability to sprint maximally ($40 > T_b \geq 32^\circ$ C) without basking in the open, the hawks were successful in only 19% of their attacks. This relationship between predicted T_b of the hatchlings and the success of the hawk attacks is significant ($\chi^2 = 19.87$, $P < 0.001$).

A large portion of the observed hawk attacks occurred during periods in which WARM-HOT conditions existed (Table 3). In part, this can be explained by the fact that during 50% of a typical day, these conditions existed. However, the proportion of attacks during these periods is significantly higher ($\chi^2 = 11.56$; $P < 0.005$) than would be expected given the percentages of a typical day in which the different environmental conditions exist. If we can assume that the movements of dispersing hatchlings induce attacks by hawks, then this may provide indirect evidence that a significant amount of dispersal occurred during WARM-HOT conditions as was predicted in Table 2 on the basis of sprint rate data. A counter alternative is that at times when hatchlings are significantly better at escaping predators, predators need to make more attacks on hatchlings in order to satiate themselves.

Huey and Stevenson (1979) have noted that there is a gap in our knowledge of the interactions between physiological performance and ecology. This study contributes to our understanding of this aspect by providing evidence (1) that the locomotor ability of an ectothermic lizard is a function of its T_b , and (2) that this relationship influences the ability to escape predators. In addition, the use of the techniques of biophysical ecology to predict the T_b 's of free ranging lizards demonstrates the value of these analytical tools in investigations of general ecological importance.

In summary, hatchling land iguanas can avoid predation while they remain in the communal nesting area either by hiding under shrubs or by escape by running. The data on sprint rates suggest that the ability to escape by running is a function of T_b . Since hatchlings must disperse, they cannot stay under the shrubs all the time; thus there is an advantage to having an optimal T_b (in terms of optimal sprint ability) when dispersing. We therefore conclude that the success of hawk attacks under different environmental conditions demonstrate that the physical environment, as mediated through the physiological response to T_b , significantly influences the survival of hatchling Galapagos land iguanas.

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