

The numbers of young exceed the range given by Smith (1954) for this country although they are less than the maxima found by Holder and Bellairs (1963) and the Slow-worm record by Johnson (1963).

A Common Lizard, taken July 11th, 1960, at Wicken Fen, Cambridge-shire, gave birth to eleven young the same day. Three were still in membranes and were removed when they showed no attempt to struggle free. Of these one died the same day. Three of the ten survivors were given to Mr. L. J. Wolff of Newton Park College, Bath, for teaching purposes. The remainder did not survive the summer in vivaria.

On August 29th of the same year a large Slow-worm was taken near Swanage, Dorset, which over the period September 12-17 gave birth to nineteen living young and one which failed to emerge from the membrane and was discovered dead. Total lengths of the nineteen young, measured alive by dividers, ranged from 80-90 mm. approximately. Weighed on an automatic analytical balance of 1 mgm. sensitivity, at the Furzebrook Research Station of the Nature Conservancy, live weights at birth ranged between 0.4 and 0.6 gm.; the average 0.49 gm. Some of this litter are preserved in the spirit collections at Liverpool City Museum.

REFERENCES

- Holder, L. A., and Bellairs, A. d'A., 1963. "Litter records for Common Lizard and Slow-worm." *Brit. J. Herpetology*. Vol. 3, No. 5, Dec. 1963, 133.
- Johnson, M., 1963. "Slow-worm Record." *Naturalist*. No. 884, Jan.-Mar., 1963, 133.
- Smith, M. *The British Amphibians and Reptiles*. Collins, London. 2nd Edition 1954, pp. 176, 197.

DELAYED HATCHING AND GROWTH OF COMMON LIZARD (*LACERTA VIVIPARA*)

By
H. ASHLEY BEST

A captive common lizard laid seven eggs on July 28th, 1963. These were placed in a glass jar and incubated at 75-80°F. One hatched after 24 hours; four others hatched after periods of up to seven days; the remaining two eggs failed to hatch. It is, of course, not unusual for young of the common lizard to be born still enclosed within their membranous eggs; M. Smith (*The British Amphibians and Reptiles*, Collins, 1954) states that they may not emerge for some days. A delay of seven days before hatching is perhaps unusual, however.

The baby lizards began to feed the day after hatching, taking black and green aphids and small spiders. At hatching they measured some 32-35 mm. with tail; one grew to about 45 mm. after 75 days. These figures are lower than those given by Smith for young of this species.

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REVIEW

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A. D'A. BELLAIRS.

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Lt.-Col. R. H. R. Taylor (The Studio, Belchamp St. Paul, Sudbury, Suffolk), would be grateful for further distribution records of the British amphibians and reptiles.

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