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**BIOLOGY AND CONSERVATION OLIVE RIDLEY TURTLE  
(*LEPIDOCHELYS OLIVACEA*, ESCHSCHOLTZ) IN THE ANDAMAN SEA,  
SOUTHERN THAILAND**

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**ABSTRACT**

A study on biology of sea turtle of Thailand has been conducted along the west coast of Thailand, the Andaman Sea, from 1973 to 1990 with emphasis on olive ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*, Eschscholtz), the most common species in this area. The data indicate a serious decline of the population. The nesting season started in October and ended in February with a peak from the middle of December to the middle of January. The nesting biology and behaviour of olive ridley turtle have been studied. The average egg size was 38.35 mm in diameter, and the average clutch size 111.89 eggs (S.D. = 9.59). Some olive ridley turtle eggs were incubated and hatchlings obtained in the rearing programme at Phuket Marine Biological Center. Small turtles were released to the sea at an age of 3 to 6 months. The sea turtle conservation strategy in Thailand is reviewed and discussed.