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**NESTING BEHAVIOUR AND SOME BIOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF OLIVE
RIDLEY TURTLE (*LEPIDOCHELYS OLIVACEA*) IN CAPTIVITY**

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ABSTRACT

In 1992, the Phuket Marine Biological Center began studies on the breeding behaviour and biology of olive ridley turtles (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) reared in captivity. A large pond was built with an artificial sand beach on one side. Six males and 14 females were released into the pond after having been in captivity at the Center for 16 years. In December 1992, a female laid a clutch of 122 eggs. The average egg diameter was 38.5 mm. Incubation lasted 56 days. On an average, carapace length of the hatch was 43.0 mm, carapace width 36.5 mm, and the weight 19.0 g. Hatch success was 89.6%. The behaviour and characteristics of turtles reared and born in captivity were similar to that of turtles observed in nature.