

A Bibliography of Turtle Feeding

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I. INTRODUCTION
II. BIBLIOGRAPHY

I. INTRODUCTION

The bibliography that follows is hardly exhaustive, but it does serve as an introduction to the literature on turtle feeding. General references on natural history and diet are not included, but a number of important papers on digestive physiology are. Also omitted are references on the systematics of turtles. The emphasis here is on the morphology of the feeding apparatus, feeding function, and behavioral observations of feeding in turtles.

Historically, the functional morphology of feeding in turtles has been sadly neglected, but several recent contributions suggest that this is changing. In any case, turtle feeding is badly in need of investigation. One of the attractive features of turtles, as a group, is their diversity. Among other things, they span the range from fully terrestrial to fully aquatic, with everything in between. Thus, turtles, like salamanders, offer the opportunity to examine phenotypic changes in the feeding system associated with a change in the feeding medium (see Bramble and Wake, 1985; Lauder, 1985). Terrestrial turtles share with mammals and lepidosaurs a mobile, muscular tongue, but the intrinsic anatomy, biomechanics, and function of the turtle tongue are virtually unstudied. In general, there is a great deal of morphological diversity among turtle feeding systems that is largely unappreciated, perhaps because the che-

lonian *Bauplan* suggests some kind of uniformity. Our comparative ignorance of feeding function in turtles hampers our ability to discern general patterns in the history of tetrapod feeding. The fact that they are an ancient group that might retain ancestral amniote features in some aspects of their feeding system makes their further study all the more desirable.

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