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A new method of estimating thermal performance of embryonic development rate yields accurate prediction of embryonic age in wild reptile nests

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Abstract: Temperature has a strong effect on ectotherm development rate. It is therefore possible to construct predictive models of development that rely solely on temperature, which have applications in a range of biological fields. Here, we leverage a reference series of development stages for embryos of the turtle *Chelydra serpentina*, which was described at a constant temperature of 20ºC. The reference series acts to map each distinct developmental stage onto embryonic age (in days) at 20ºC. By extension, an embryo taken from any given incubation

[1] author contributions were equal.