

TROPIDURUS HISPIDUS (NCN). HATCHLING SIZE.
Tropidurus hispidus has a broad distribution from central-eastern and northeastern Brazil to Venezuela (Rodrigues 1987. Arq. Zool. 31:105–230; Rodrigues 1988. In Heyer and Vanzolini [eds.], Proceedings of a Workshop on Neotropical Distribution Patterns, pp.

305–315. Academia Brasileira de Ciências, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil). Data are available on clutch size (Vitt 1983. Copeia 1983:131–141), but information on hatchling size is lacking. Here, we provide preliminary data on hatchling size for *T. hispidus*.

At 0820 h on 8 June 2005, CMCAL and TBGC collected 8 eggs of *T. hispidus* at the Parque Estadual das Dunas do Natal (05.8135278°S, 35.1920278°W, datum: WGS84; elev. 72 m), Natal City, Estado do Rio Grande do Norte, Brazil. Located within Atlantic Forest Domain, the nest site, a small terrestrial cavity (5 cm diameter × 3 cm deep) covered with herbaceous and shrubby vegetation (notably *Anthurium affine*, *Aechmea aquilega*, and *Krameria tomentosa*), was encountered during a transect survey. On 4 April 2007 at 0910 h, EMXF collected one egg (1109 mm³, 0.68 g) of this species, next to DBEZ - Departamento de Botânica, Ecologia e Zoologia (Department of Botany, Ecology and Zoology) at the Campus of Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Norte – UFRN (05.8426667°S, 35.2018611°W; elev. 69 m), Natal City. The collection location of this egg was a garden area surrounded by a forest patch. The single egg was found in soil beneath sparse leaf litter (< 1 cm deep). Eggs from each collection date were placed in a terrarium (20 × 12 × 20 cm) in a sand substrate, and maintained at the Laboratório de Herpetologia (Departamento de Botânica, Ecologia e Zoologia/UFRN). We placed the terrarium next to a window protected from direct solar radiation, but we made no efforts to otherwise control light or temperature; incubation occurred under ambient conditions. In Natal City, ambient temperatures during the June–July incubation interval for the first clutch varied from 22.0°C to 30.0°C, whereas ambient temperatures during the brief April incubation of the second single egg varied from 24.0°C to 34.0°C.

On 12 July 2005, about five weeks after the first clutch was found, juveniles began to emerge; on 8 April 2007, four days later the single egg was found, the juvenile emerged. Body measurements were taken immediately upon hatching, and each individual

was sexed following euthanization (Table 1). Coefficients of variation (CV) for data among all hatchlings were quite low (< 0.05) except for mass (CV = 0.25). Tail length/body length ratio differed significantly between males (mean = 1.70 ± 0.04 mm; N = 4) and females (mean = 1.59 ± 0.04 mm; N = 5; Mann-Whitney U test: $P = 0.0143$).

Mean body size of nine *T. hispidus* hatchlings is similar to that observed by Vitt (*op. cit.*) for individuals hatched in the laboratory (mean = 27.8 ± 0.45 mm SVL; N = 5), but their average mass is somewhat less than that recorded by Vitt (*op. cit.*; mean = 0.74 ± 0.09 g).

The *T. hispidus* (CHBEZ 1167–1174; 1715) were deposited in the herpetological collection of Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Norte, Natal City. We thank two anonymous reviewers for helpful comments. The Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico (CNPq) supported LBR with a research grant (Process 141993/2006-5).

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TABLE 1. Data on nine *Tropidurus hispidus* hatched in the Laboratory (Estado do Rio Grande do Norte, Natal City, Brazil). Individuals 1–8 were from one clutch; individual 9 was from a second clutch. Snout–vent length (SVL), tail length (Tail), head length (HL), head width (HW) measurements are in millimeters; mass is in grams.

Individual	Morphological Variables				
	SVL	Tail	HL	HW	Mass
1 (Female)	28.2	45.7	9.4	6.5	0.58
2 (Female)	27.7	43.5	8.8	6.1	0.52
3 (Male)	27.6	48.9	9.4	6.4	0.59
4 (Male)	28.7	48.6	9.6	6.6	0.74
5 (Male)	28.6	48.3	9.2	6.1	0.55
6 (Male)	28.4	47.5	9.2	6.3	0.63
7 (Female)	27.2	43.3	9.0	5.7	0.37
8 (Female)	27.6	45.7	8.8	6.0	0.35
9 (Female)	27.6	42.7	9.3	6.6	0.40
Mean	28.0	46.0	9.2	6.3	0.53
SD	0.53	2.4	0.28	0.30	0.13