Abstract

VO₂ of Nile crocodile embryos was measured at 32°C during the last half of the incubation period and for 10 days after hatching. Peak VO₂ occurred when incubation was 87% completed. Thereafter, VO₂ decreased until hatching, following the same peaked pattern as in embryos of other crocodilians. After hatching, VO₂ increased to 119% of peak VO₂, indicating a higher gas exchange capacity during pulmonary respiration than during chorioallantoic respiration.