Abstract

VO_2 of Nile crocodile embryos was measured at 32°C during the last half of the incubation period and for 10 days after hatching. Peak VO_2 occurred when incubation was 87% completed. Thereafter, VO_2 decreased until hatching, following the same peaked pattern as in embryos of other crocodilians. After hatching, VO_2 increased to 119% of peak VO_2, indicating a higher gas exchange capacity during pulmonary respiration than during chorioallantoic respiration.