

Loggerhead Turtle Tagged in Brazil Found in Uruguay

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An adult female loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*), which was tagged on Pontal do Ipiranga beach, Linhares, in the state of Espírito Santo, Brazil (19°14 S, 39°41 W), was found dead at Punta del Diablo, Rocha, Uruguay (34°03 S, 54°30 W), following a strong coastal storm on the 18th April 1999. The turtle had been recorded nesting on the beach at Pontal do Ipiranga on the 7th November 1991, during a regular beach patrol by members of Projeto TAMAR. The turtle was tagged with uniquely numbered tags (style 681 monel tag, National Band Co.) on both front flippers.

This is the third long-range tag recovery for loggerhead turtles tagged on the coast of Espírito Santo. Bolten *et al.* (1990) reported that a juvenile released at the Comboios Biological Reserve, on the northern coast of Espírito Santo (19°38 S, 39°49 W), on the 26th February 1986 was recaptured on the 17th June 1989, off the coast of Azores Archipelago (39°24 N, 28°08 W). That turtle, however, had been raised in captivity since it hatched on the 27th February 1985 and also had been released at an unnatural site for its age class. As suggested by these authors, these factors may have resulted in an abnormal migratory behavior. Marcovaldi *et al.* (1999) reported that a turtle found stranded in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (22°54 S, 43°04 W), had been tagged on Povoação beach, Linhares, ES, Brazil (19°22 S, 39°48 W), in November 1995.

Although these data are relatively sparse, they do suggest that sea turtles from Espírito Santo can migrate long distances. This reinforces the importance for regional and international cooperation in achieving success in conservation efforts for sea turtles in Brazil and elsewhere.

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BOLTEN, A.B., H.R. MARTINS, M.L. NATALI, J.C. THOMÉ & M.A. MARCOVALDI. 1990. Loggerhead released in Brazil recaptured in Azores. *Marine Turtle Newsletter* 48:24-25.

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