Saturation of Olive Ridley nesting sites

With reference to the article ‘Is Gahirmatha the world’s largest sea turtle rookery?’ by Basudev Tripathy, I would like to add that although statistical nesting records may be older for other populations, the oldest record for any turtle population is by Anderson in 1708, who refers to the prodigious number of turtles nesting in almost 100 km length from Kanika to Balasore which includes the present-day Gahirmatha. It is a matter of great concern that the 100 km nesting length has now been reduced to a 3–4 km island of Nasi in Gahirmatha area in the last 300 years, which means saturation of nesting space, thereby affecting the population. Further, it may be alright to reassess whether Gahirmatha is the largest rookery or not in the world scenario, but regarding the author’s apprehension that declaring the Gahirmatha population the largest may affect the downlisting of the species, it appears that the author is not aware of the fact that the IUCN Red List Standard and Petitions Subcommittee has already downlisted the status of four sea turtles, including the Olive Ridley whose status has been changed from EN A1abd (1996) to EN A1bd in the Red List based on a petition by Nicholas Mrosovsky (Species News., July–December 2001, No. 36).


P. Mohanty-Hejmadi
Department of Zoology, Utkal University, Bhubaneswar 751 004, India
e-mail: mohanthyheimjadi@hotmail.com

Absence of condensing agent

I am appalled to see the description of a chemical conjugation between morphine hemisuccinate and albumin in dioxane at ice-bath temperature but in the absence of any condensing agent. This appears to be a serious omission or some kind of a ‘cold fusion’ since amide bonds cannot form unless the carboxyl groups are activated by condensing agents. The structure of the conjugate of BSA and morphine shown in figure 1 is also dubious.


Dinkar Sahal
International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, New Delhi 110 067, India
e-mail: dinkar@icgeb.res.in