

Peer Review

# Review of: "Feeding Ecology and Activity Rhythms of the Critically Endangered Hawksbill Turtle"

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1. Independent researcher

Dear Editor,

I have reviewed the article "Feeding Ecology and Activity Rhythms of the Critically Endangered Hawksbill Turtle"; this work is within the scope of works published by « Qeios ».

This study aimed to characterize the activity rhythm and food preferences of hawksbill turtles in Martinique. More specifically, the authors combined video recordings (selected prey) and habitat samples (potential prey) and compared them to indicate prey selection. I am a strong appreciator of works that involve natural history and life history, and works on food aspects are equally important and fundamental for decision-making in management and conservation.

The manuscript as presented is ready for publication; I only have a few suggestions.

1. In the abstract, please place (Linnaeus, 1766) after *Eretmochelys imbricata*.
2. I recommend rewording sentences using active voice (for example, the following sentence : « This study aimed to characterize the activity rhythm and dietary preferences of hawksbill turtles in Martinique to develop appropriate conservation strategies at both local and global scales »).
3. The authors should avoid repeating the name of the area, species, and location in every paragraph.
4. The authors mention a national action plan protecting hawksbill turtles; perhaps a reference to this action plan should be added.
5. Additional biological data are mentioned by the authors in the "Materials and Methods" section. Are epibionts sampled, and can they confirm the feeding ecology of turtles?
6. Does the absence of subadult turtles in the samples have anything to do with the time frame used for the sampling, the location where turtles are captured, or other reasons?

7. Photos and videos were taken during this work; it would be good to have some photos of the turtles' feeding behavior in this article.

8- Regarding the list of prey consumed, I suggest, when possible, indicating the popular name of the prey species in parentheses, followed by the scientific name. E.g.: *Aplysina insularis* (yellow tube sponge).

Best regards,

Sami Karaa

## **Declarations**

**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.