



FIGURE 10.—Female *T. coahuila* foraging in a marsh near the study area, 24 August 1965. Nine mosquitofish, *Gambusia marshi*, are swimming near the turtle.

second marsh was essentially open and shallow with beds of *Chara* and grazed *Eleocharis* around the perimeter, offering an unusually good situation where turtles could be watched easily with binoculars. Feeding turtles could sometimes be approached to within a meter.

Water depth generally varied between 2 and 6 cm so that much of the turtle's carapace remained above water level and was dry. The animal nearly always held its head below the water surface as it moved forward, apparently scanning underwater. Forelimbs were frequently used to move *Chara* and basal portions of *Eleocharis* to the side while the head entered the cleared area or the turtle nipped at portions of uprooted plant material or exposed aquatic animals. Typically the turtle occasionally raised its head out of the water, neck extended, as if surveying its surroundings (Fig. 10). These pauses usually lasted only a few seconds, but might be longer if an intruder was suspected.

The Bog Turtle, *Clemmys muhlenbergi*, in northeastern U.S., inhabits *Sphagnum* moss—*Carex* sedge marshes similar in life form to the *Chara-Eleocharis* marsh habitat of *T. coahuila*. Intersecting rivulets in the moss provide runways for *C. muhlenbergi* (Barton and Price 1955).