

Supplementary text

Onset of humeral ossification in extant tetrapods:

- day 5 after hatching, i.e. larval stage of the newt *Lissotriton vulgaris*¹;
- early larval stage of the frog *Rana temporaria* before metamorphosis¹;
- snout-vent length (SVL) = 7mm, i.e. early in-ovo stage of the lizard *Lacerta vivipara*²;
- week 13 of the turtle *Chelydra serpentina* in ovo^{3,4};
- day 15 in utero in the mouse *Mus musculus*⁵.

References

- 1 Erdmann, K. Zur Entwicklung des knöchernen Skelets von Triton und Rana unter besonderer Berücksichtigung der Zeitfolge der Ossifikationen. *Anatomy and Embryology* **101**, 566-651 (1933).
- 2 Rieppel, O. *Studies on skeleton formation in reptiles. III. Patterns of ossification in the skeleton of Lacerta vivipara Jacquin (Reptilia, Squamata)*. (Field Museum of Natural History, 1992).
- 3 Rieppel, O. Studies on skeleton formation in reptiles: patterns of ossification in the skeleton of *Chelydra serpentina* (Reptilia, Testudines). *Journal of Zoology* **231**, 487-509 (1993).
- 4 Yntema, C. L. A series of stages in the embryonic development of *Chelydra serpentina*. *Journal of Morphology* **125**, 219-251 (1968).
- 5 Patton, J. T. & Kaufman, M. H. The timing of ossification of the limb bones, and growth rates of various long bones of the fore and hind limbs of the prenatal and early postnatal laboratory mouse. *Journal of Anatomy* **186**, 175 (1995).