HATCHING PERFORMANCE OF EMU (*Dromaius novaehollandiae*) BREEDERS

T.LurthuReetha and P.N.Richard Jagatheesan

*TANUVAS- Regional Research Centre, Industrial Estate – Post, Pudukkottai-622 004*

vetrichard69@yahoo.co.in

The study was carried out at Emu Research Unit, TANUVAS Regional Research Centre, Pudukkottai during the breeding season of 2009-10. A total of 112 eggs were collected from four pairs of 6 years old emu birds maintained under standard management practices. The eggs were placed horizontally in the incubator. The temperature of 97.5°F and 60 per cent relative humidity were maintained in the setter to incubate the eggs for 47 days during which they were turned at hourly interval. On completion of 47 days of incubation In the setter, eggs were transferred
to the hatcher where the same temperature (97.5°F) and humidity (60 per cent) were maintained. A total of 41 chicks were hatched out of 112 eggs set. The fertility observed was 72.35 per cent. The total hatchability was 36.6 per cent, fertile hatchability 52.5 per cent, early embryonic mortality 9.8 per cent, late embryonic mortality 5.35 per cent and dead in shell 15.17 per cent. The mean egg weight and hatch weight were 583.46±20.87g 414.14±5.47g respectively. Day old emu chick weight was 70.98 per cent of egg weight.