



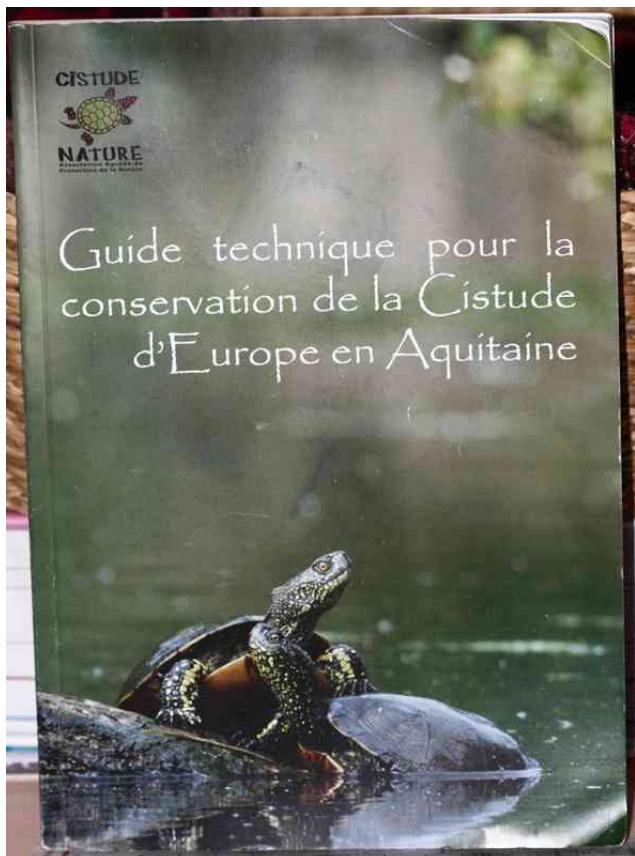
Association Emys Conservation
A3 Résidence La Voie du Sud
91160 LONGJUMEAU – France
01 69 09 27 24 – 06 16 98 52 04
emys@ao.com
<http://emys.conservation.free.fr>

Lettre n°12

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EDITORIAL



tortue emblématique de ce "désert écologique", devient la T.s.e, faudrait-il la protéger ?

Là où l'on trouve encore des cistudes, l'Aquitaine par exemple, le souci permanent du financement et des partenaires, conduit à ne parler que de ce qui va leur plaire. C'est un peu rude, comme affirmation, mais ne pas évoquer les petites cistudes qui se font croquer par les T.s.e, est-ce le souci de ne pas choquer ? Ou d'un point de vue technique, l'exemple d'une zone où la cistude a disparu et pourquoi ? Ou les résultats chiffrés sur trois, quatre ans de l'évolution d'une population : croissance ou réduction (surtout dans les sites pilotes) ?

Par ailleurs, je connais la philosophie de Cistude Nature, de son fondateur et animateur si discret que contrairement à d'autres, il ne s'est surtout pas mis en avant pour la responsabilité de ce Guide. Son but est plutôt de privilégier les solutions pragmatiques, de réaliser un consensus, pas d'aller devant les tribunaux ou d'agiter des pancartes. J'admire donc au travers de ce Guide l'énorme travail réalisé depuis l'époque où il nous emmenait visiter les sites. C'est impressionnant et d'autant plus exceptionnel que l'on se trouve dans la région de l'hexagone qui la première a eu à souffrir de redoutables espèces invasives : T.s.e, grenouilles Taureau, écrevisses américaines... Ce Guide et ses réalisations sont donc une réaction salutaire à ces agressions.

Bonne lecture !

Alain Veysset

Chers collègues et amis,

Pour cette nouvelle lettre, je reviendrai à des interrogations franco-françaises, mais de portée européenne, à partir de la publication du "Guide technique pour la conservation de la Cistude d'Europe en Aquitaine" par Cistude Nature, en vente au congrès SHF de Grenoble, début octobre (pour se le procurer: www.cistude.org ou www.cistude-aquitaine.net, tel 0556284772).

Et je commence par un copié collé : la note de lecture sur un autre guide, celui d'Cadi A. et Faverot P. 2004 – "La Cistude d'Europe, gestion et restauration des populations et de leur habitat. Guide technique" – Conservatoire Rhône-Alpes des espaces naturels, 108 pages, où j'écrivais :

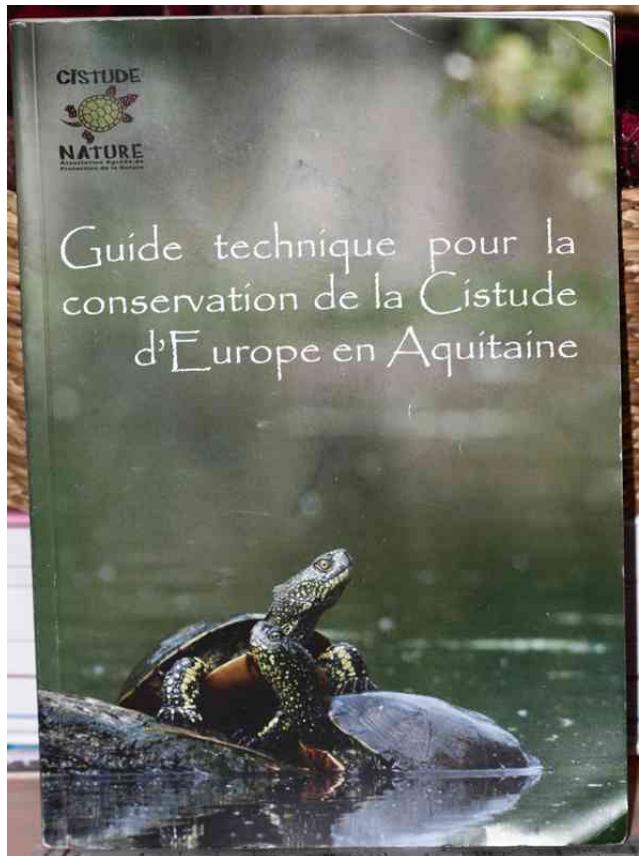
"Je peux parler de cet ouvrage sorti pour le congrès de la SHF de Martel, début juillet dernier, avec d'autant plus de sérénité et de recul, que je n'ai été ni consulté pour sa réalisation, ni cité d'aucune sorte."

Je n'insisterai que sur un point :

L'abondance du mot "technique" pour Guides, Journées, Lettres de liaison, serions-nous réduits à n'être que des techniciens de la nature et de la conservation ? La cistude et sa conservation ne mériteraient-elles pas d'autres ambitions ? La professionnalisation des métiers de la Nature est une très bonne chose, que de nombreux jeunes s'engagent dans ces carrières avec passion, courage et bien peu de rémunération prouve que c'est un combat difficile et qui mérite tout notre soutien. En même temps une vision trop réductrice peut s'opposer à la protection des espèces. Si on prend l'Atlas de Seine Saint Denis, la

2/14

EDITOR'S CORNER



Dear colleagues and friends

In this new letter I want to come back to French to French issues which have a European impact: the publication of the "Technical Guide of the European fresh water turtle in Aquitaine" (sold at the beginning of October at the SHF Congress in Grenoble : www.cistude.org or www.cistude-aquitaine.net, tel 0556284772).

And I want to start with a copied stuck : the notes from another Guide by A.Cadi and P.Faverot 2004 : "The European fresh water turtle monitoring and restauration of the populations and their habitat. Technical Guide." Conservatoire Rhône-Alpes des espaces naturels, 108 pages, I wrote :

"I can speak about this work (...) with all the more impartiality and detachment that I was not consulted for its realisation or quoted of any kind."

I just want to insist on one point :

The abundance of the word "technical" for Guides, Days, Connection Letters... Are we reduced to be technicians of nature and conservation ? *Emys orbicularis* and its conservation deserve other ambitions. The professionalism in nature jobs is a good thing. The fact that a lot of young people join these careers with passion, heart and very few remuneration shows that it is a hard struggle which needs all our support. At the same time, a reduced vision can be in opposition with the protection of species. If we take the Atlas of "Seine Saint Denis" (a city in northern suburbs of Paris), the emblematic turtle of this "ecological desert" becomes the *Trachemys scripta elegans*: should we protect it ?

In places where we can still find Emys (Aquitaine for example), the permanent problems of financing and partners lead us to speak only about what will please them. It's a bit hard to say, but why the small Emys which are often crunched by *T.s.e* are not mentioned? Is that because you fear to shock ? Or, from a technical point of view, the example of an area where Emys disappears and why ? Or the statistics on three or four years of the evolution of a population : growth or reduction (especially on pilot sites...) ?

In addition to that, I know the philosophy of "Cistude Nature" and I know its so unassuming founder and coordinator who, contray to others, didn't put himself forward for the responsibility of this guide. His goal is rather to give priority to pragmatic solutions, to realize a consensus, and not to bring a case to court or demonstrate. So, through this Guide, I really admire the enormous work that he realized since the day when we visited the Emys sites with him. It's remarkable and all the more exceptional that we are in a French region which had to suffer from dreadful invasive species : *T.s.e*, *Lithobates catesbeianus*, *Procambarus clarkii*... This Guide and its realisations are also a healthy reaction to these aggressions.

Alain Veysset

JOURNÉE TECHNIQUE "CISTUDES" - JEUDI 9 DECEMBRE 2010

Pré-programme Journées techniques "cistude"

Jeudi 9 décembre

9H : Accueil des participants.

10H00 : Allocutions de bienvenue.

10H15 : Raphaël Quesada, Stéphanie Thienpont. *Association Nature Nord Isère Lo Parvi.*

"Gestion d'un étang abritant de la cistude en Isère : retour d'expérience sur 12 ans de travaux et de suivi."

10H45 : Olivier ROQUES, Sylvain DIAZ. *Nature-Environnement 17.*

"Caractérisation d'une population de cistudes d'Europe dans le Marais de Brouage. Etude préliminaire pour évaluer l'impact des techniques de curage en marais doux."

11H15 : Bertolero, A. ; Fortuno, L. ; Franch, M.A. & Curco, A. *IRTA Ecosistemes Aquatics.*

"Réintroduction de la cistude dans le Delta de l'Ebre."

11H45 : Marc Cheylan et Françoise Poitevin. *Ecole Pratique Hautes Etudes CEFE-CNRS, Montpellier.*

"Incendies et crues répétées ne viennent pas à bout d'une population de cistudes. Mais pourquoi la cistude décline-t-elle ?"

12H30 : DEJEUNER

14H00 :Thienpont Stéphanie, André Miquet. *Ecologue indépendant et Conservatoire du Patrimoine Naturel de Savoie.*

"Présentation du plan national d'action cistude d'Europe (2011-2015) et discussion"

15H00 :Damien Lerat, Samuel Gomez. *Société d'Histoire Naturelle d'Autun, CSNB.*

"Le Plan Régional d'Actions en faveur de la Cistude d'Europe en Bourgogne."

15H30 : PAUSE

16H00 : Catherine Ducaillar et Stéphanie Darblade. *Réserve Naturelle de l'Etang Noir.*

"Démarche de sensibilisation à la Cistude d'Europe sur la Réserve naturelle nationale de l'Etang Noir : création de supports pédagogiques".

16H30 :Pauline Priol, Zoey Owen-Jones, Stéphanie Thienpont, Sylvain Wagner, Jacques Trotignon, Marc Cheylan et Aurélien Besnard. *Cistude Nature, Réserve Naturelle de Chérine, Ecologue indépendant, Conseil général Dordogne, EPHE CEFE CNRS Montpellier.*

"Capacités de déplacement et d'adaptation de la cistude d'Europe : impacts de la gestion piscicole ?"

17H00 : Zoey Owen-Jones, Stéphanie Thienpont, Jacques Trotignon, Aurélien Besnard et Marc Cheylan. *Réserve naturelle nationale de Chérine.*

"Bilan de 4 années de suivi sur la Réserve Naturelle de Chérine."

17H30 Allocutions officielles de : -M. Jean Louis Camus, président de la Réserve, Vice Président du Conseil général ;
-Melle Pascale Rossler, Vice Présidente de la région Centre en charge de la Biodiversité, de l'Education à l'Environnement, de la Loire, du Tourisme et des Patrimoines ;
-M. Frédéric Lavigne, Sous-Prefet du Blanc.

18H15 : Cocktail

19H45 : Dîner

Vendredi 10 décembre

9H : Bertolero, A. ; Cheylan, M. & Gendre, T. *IRTA Ecosistemes Aquàtics*

"**Modélisations démographiques des populations réintroduites dans les Réserves naturelles nationales de l'Estagnol et du Bagnas (Languedoc-Roussillon).**"

9H30 : Olivier Verneau, Carmen Palacios, Thomas Gendre, Julie Peinado, Aitor Valdeñ & Louis H. Du Preez. *Université de Perpignan Via Domitia.*

"**Les tortues de Floride, une porte ouverte aux invasions parasitaires".**

10H00 : Mickaël Nicolas, Laurent Barthes, Pauline Priol. *CPIE Gersois, Cistude Nature.*

"**Avantages d'un suivi interrégional de programmes de conservation Cistude d'Europe (Aquitaine et Midi-Pyrénées).**"

10H45 : PAUSE

11H : M. Raemy, S. Ursenbacher, M. Cheylan, Z. Owen-Jones, C. Faurre. *Université de Bâle, Suisse.*

"**Distribution des sous-espèces et comparaison de l'hybridation chez la Cistude d'Europe (*Emys orbicularis*, L.1758) dans une zone de contact naturelle historique et une zone de contact artificielle récente"**

11H30 : Lorraine Bourget et Camille Jolivet. *Sologne Nature Environnement.*

"**Répartition et potentialités d'accueil de la Cistude d'Europe (*Emys orbicularis*) en Sologne : Etude comparative en région Centre"**

12H00 : Laurent Joubert. *Réserve de la Mazière.*

"**Etude et renforcement de la population de Cistudes d'Europe (*Emys orbicularis orbicularis*) au sein de la réserve Naturelle de l'étang de la Mazière".**

12H45 : DEJEUNER

14H00 : Anthony Olivier et Sébastien Ficheux. *Tour du Valat, Université de Dijon.*

"**À«Suivi à long terme des cistudes sur la Tour du Valat (Camargue). Bilan de 14 années de CMR et perspectives."**

14H30 : Thomas Gendre et Ludovic Cases. *Conservatoire des espaces naturels Languedoc Roussillon, Syndicat mixte du bassin de l'Or.*

"**Expérimentation de capture de la tortue de Floride en milieu périlagunaire dans le cadre du LIFE LAG'NATURE (Hérault).**"

15H00 : PEINADO Julie, BOSC Valérie, DESTANDAU Richard, FLEURIAU Romain, LEBRET Arnaud

"**Programme de gestion d'une tortue exotique *Trachemys scripta elegans* en région Corse : tentative d'éradication sur le site N2000 à l'embouchure du Rizzanese (Propriano, Corse du sud)"**

15H30 : Emmanuelle Speh. *Nature 18.*

"**Résultats d'une année de recherche de la présence de la cistude d'Europe (*Emys orbicularis*) dans le Cher, hors zone Natura 2000 Sologne."**

16H00 : Denis Reudet. *ONCFS, Réserve Naturelle de l'Estagnol.*

"**Ré-introduction de la Cistude d'Europe sur la Réserve naturelle nationale de l'Estagnol. Résultats de trois années de suivi."**

16H30 : Clôture des journées techniques cistude.

THE LAST ABUSE OF THE FRENCH ENVIRONMENTAL MINISTRY

Décrets, arrêtés, circulaires

TEXTES GÉNÉRAUX

MINISTÈRE DE L'ÉCOLOGIE, DE L'ÉNERGIE, DU DÉVELOPPEMENT

DURABLE ET DE LA MER, EN CHARGE

DES TECHNOLOGIES VERTES ET DES NÉGOCIATIONS SUR LE CLIMAT

Arrêté du 30 juillet 2010 modifiant l'arrêté du 10 août 2004 fixant les conditions d'autorisation

de détention d'animaux de certaines espèces non domestiques dans les établissements

d'élevage, de vente, de location, de transit ou de présentation au public d'animaux d'espèces

non domestiques et l'arrêté du 10 août 2004 fixant les règles générales de fonctionnement

des installations d'élevage d'agrément d'animaux d'espèces non domestiques

NOR : *DEVN1016197A*

Art. 7. – L'annexe A de l'arrêté du 10 août 2004 fixant les règles générales de fonctionnement des installations d'élevage d'agrément d'animaux d'espèces non domestiques est modifiée comme suit :

1o A la troisième ligne du tableau, entre les mots : « Lagomorphes, rongeurs » et les mots : « et insectivores », sont insérés les mots : « , à l'exception de *Tamias sibiricus*, ».

2o Dans la première colonne à la quatrième ligne du tableau, au cinquième alinéa, le mot : « passéridés, » est inséré entre les mots : « plocéidés, » et les mots : « embéridés, ».

3o A la deuxième colonne de la cinquième ligne du tableau, le chiffre : « 6 » est remplacé par les mots : « 6 (**). ».

4o A la suite du tableau, un alinéa ainsi rédigé est ajouté :

« (**) Pour les espèces du genre *Testudo*, l'effectif cumulé maximum peut être doublé sous réserve que les spécimens aient été acquis avant l'entrée en vigueur du présent arrêté. »

THE FRENCH MENAGERIE OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

The french menagerie of the National Museum of Natural History has not enough place in the center of Paris. The Museum receives 500 hectares in the Regional Parc of the Brenne to build a new zoo : "Le Parc de la Haute Touche". Of course, in the ponds and lakes of this area, they found *Emys orbicularis* and the actual direction organizes a nursery...

Tortues et lémuriens se côtoient au parc de la Haute-Touche
Publié le 12 août 2010 - 00:01

Les lémuriens de Madagascar, une des attractions du parc, ont été rejoints, près de leur île, par les tortues cistudes.

Le parc naturel régional de la Brenne fête ses vingt ans. L'occasion de découvrir cette petite soeur de la Sologne, en moins privatisée. Le parc de la Haute-Touche, réserve de Vincennes et du Jardin des plantes, à Paris, se lance dans le sauvetage de la tortue cistude.

Ce n'est pas un parc zoologique. Mais une réserve. Nuance. Nous ne sommes pas à Beauval. À l'origine, sur cinq cents hectares de Brenne, avec ses six étangs et ses onze îles, la Haute-Touche bénéficie du label du Muséum national d'histoire naturelle et de la présence de ses scientifiques. En fait, c'est une « annexe » du zoo de Vincennes et de la ménagerie du Jardin des plantes, à Paris.

Dans les années 1950-60, après le don des cinq cents hectares par une riche famille d'Azay-le-Ferron (Indre) au Muséum, celui-ci décide de lancer dans la Brenne les travaux scientifiques (cervidés et d'autres ongulés) qui ne peuvent être faits à Vincennes.

En 1980, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, grand chasseur devant l'éternel, reçoit du leader polonais, Edward Gierek, des bisons d'Europe centrale alors peu connus en France. Un cadeau futé !

Cet épisode marquera l'ouverture au public d'un parc à l'époque mal conçu pour la visite. En 1988, grâce au coup de pouce des collectivités (région, département), le parc, devenu Espace animalier de la Haute-Touche, aménage un plan d'eau de trois hectares avec sept îles pour les primates, des zones Afrique, une île Madagascar, une nouvelle entrée, une route de quatre kilomètres en safari-voiture...

Dans les coulisses, un laboratoire de recherche se consacre à la reproduction assistée (in vitro) d'espèces menacées. En pointe sur la biodiversité, grâce à ses programmes de sauvegarde et d'élevage, la Haute-Touche a inauguré, fin juin, une nursery réservée aux tortues cistudes.

Frappées de vieillissement

« La cistude est considérée comme le reptile ayant subi la plus forte régression ces dernières années, explique l'un des responsables du programme scientifique. En Brenne, on trouve la plus forte population de cistude, mais elle est frappée de vieillissement. » Autre cause de sa disparition : la concurrence des tortues de Floride, dites à oreilles rouges, très agressives. Sans parler des rongeurs qui dévorent 90 % des nids.

Rescapée de l'époque des dinosaures, la cistude, à la fois reptile et tortue, se laisse découvrir, avec un peu de patience et, si possible, des jumelles. Après deux ans, elles sont transférées dans des cages d'élevage et plongées dans un marais. Entre trois et quatre ans, lorsqu'elles sont à leur poids de forme de soixante-cinq grammes et à taille adulte de quinze à vingt centimètres, les cistudes sont relâchées en milieu naturel. Elles peuvent vivre jusqu'à soixante-dix ans. Sans se presser.

Pratique

Parc naturel régional de la Brenne. Tél. : 02.54.28.12.13. Internet : www.parc-naturel-brenne.fr. Animations, sorties nature, randonnées... Nouveauté : la Brenne à vélo. Réserve de la Haute-Touche à Azay-le-Ferron (Indre). Ouvert de 10 à 19 heures. Tél. : 02.54.02.20.40. Par la D 975 Paris-Limoges. De 5 à 8 euros l'entrée. Une première partie en voiture, puis à pied ou à vélo. Le 14 août, jazz à la réserve. En septembre, brame et bivouac.



Christian Bidault

ON BABY TURTLES TRADE... / SUR LE COMMERCE DES BEBES TORTUES...



Baby turtles are adorable, inexpensive, seemingly low maintenance and big business for people selling the equipment needed to keep a turtle alive, never mind happy or healthy. The baby red-eared slider turtles were a favorite of American children and classrooms in the 1950s and 60s, producing a sale of 15 million turtles from Louisiana at its peak.

Citing severe risks of *Salmonella*, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) banned the sale of turtles 4-inches or smaller in 1975, with exemptions for those used in education, science and exhibitions. The FDA estimated that the ban would prevent 100,000 incidents of *Salmonella* every year. It also prevented needless deaths of baby turtles who suffered from a lack of proper care, who actually have a natural life expectancy of 50-70 years.

Despite the ban, a black market for baby red-eared slider turtles has led to a thriving underground business profiting millions of dollars and leaving thousands of turtles abandoned and dead.

Last year in Maryland more than 100 hatchlings were seized during a two week investigation, including one person selling them on craigslist.org.

In September authorities in California urged the public not to buy turtles from vendors after finding 10,000 live baby turtles, 500 crammed into each box, and others dead after being abandoned at a park when they began to grow or people tired of caring for them.

The ones who don't die from dehydration, starvation or predator attacks are left to wreak havoc on native animals and eco systems.

An estimated 2 million turtles are sold in small pet stores, at county fairs or by street vendors, mostly illegally.

After the ban, half the turtle farms in Louisiana were forced to close. Louisiana is the only state that regulates turtle farmers, but officials say the ban has not stopped people from catching them in the wild infected by disease.

With many of Louisiana's fishermen losing their jobs because of the BP oil spill, the turtle market has become a crucial income. About 80 farmers in Louisiana sell 4 million turtles a year, mostly to China and Europe because of the U.S. ban, a number that's been declining since China began domesticated turtle farms a few years ago.

The Independent Turtle Farmers of Louisiana (ITFL) requested a lift of the ban to help the economically depressed region. The FDA denied the request on the grounds that they could not prove that *Salmonella* free turtles could be consistently produced or that they wouldn't be reinfected later on.

In 2007, the ITFL sued the FDA in an attempt to get the ban overturned. The ITFL argued that they were being treated unfairly and that they could produce turtles free of *Salmonella* with newly developed cleaning procedures. In March Judge Dee D. Drell ruled that the FDA failed to adequately consider arguments made in 2006 to end the ban that cited larger turtles can carry *Salmonella* and products like antibacterial soaps are readily available and reduce the risk of contamination.

"It would be a big tragedy for us if we have to quit," said Eddie Jolly, president of the ITFL.

The FDA and other advocates of the ban cited *Salmonella* outbreaks in 2007-08 sickened 107 people, most of them children, in 34 states including children who handled or swam with these pet turtles. *Salmonella* was typically spread to children who handled the turtles or put them in their mouths, which was part of the reason for selecting the size for the ban. Another was that larger turtles weren't as appealing as pets.

In 2007, a 4-week-old infant died in Florida from salmonella that was traced to the family's pet turtle. It was a gift from an illegal sale at a flea market.

Judge Drell ultimately upheld the FDA's decision to keep the ban in place. Considering the number of unwanted and abandoned turtles, the high mortality rate and the risks they pose, it wouldn't make any sense to lift the ban and let more flow into the market.

The responsibility is not all on government agencies. Propelling this trade is a lack of education and understanding of the long-term requirements for keeping turtles as pets, as well as ignorance of the origins of turtles that are purchased and a lack of caring on the part of sellers about what happens to these tiny creatures after they're sold.

The Humane Society recommends the following tips:

- . Report illegal sales of baby turtles to local authorities as well as the local humane society and the FDA. Contact information for the FDA's consumer complaint coordinators can be found [here](#).
- . Contact the FDA, asking that it continue the crack down on illegal sales of baby turtles.

- . Do not purchase turtles.
 - . If you already have a turtle and have decided to give up your reptile, contact a local humane society or animal control agency for advice. Do not release unwanted pets into the wild.
 - . If you choose to keep a small turtle or any reptile in your home, make certain to know and follow the [hygiene guidelines of the CDC](#).
 - . Ask your local or state government to prohibit sales of turtles.
- If you've considered the requirements for keeping a turtle and are thinking about adopting one as a life-long pet, try looking at shelters and reptile rescue organizations for turtles who've been given up and need a forever home.

TRAFIG DE REPTILES...

Un livre proposé par Herpdigest à acheter pour les fêtes de Noël, "Trafic de reptiles..."

Stolen World: A Tale of Reptiles, Smugglers, and Skulduggery   Jennie Erin Smith, Crown, \$25 (336p) ISBN 978-0-307-38147-7

In this very disturbing and very entertaining chronicle of reptile smugglers, the collectors and zoo keepers who trade with them, and the federal agents who try to catch them, the humans are as devious, dangerous, and creepily charming as the cold-blooded creatures they lust after. Science reporter Smith bases her book on extensive original interviews with two smugglers: Henry Molt Jr. is a reptile dealer who, in the 1960s, unable to get a job with a zoo, began a lifelong career of reptile collecting involving restless international travel, partner-stiffing, and jail time, with an undaunted enthusiasm that's survived into his 60s: "The reptile business 'is a disease,' he said, and you can't retire from a disease." Equally outrageous is the volatile, knife-wielding Tommy Crutchfield, who expanded his childhood alligator-and-snake business into a million-dollar empire of reptile hunting and dealing. Even the curators of the Bronx and San Diego zoos let their obsession with the!

Animals lure them into deals in order to obtain illegally imported rare breeds. Smith's affection for these unsavoury people gives the book an intriguing moral ambiguity (which might make some environmentalists cringe), but the subculture's brazen shenanigans make for a convoluted, fascinating tale. (Jan.)

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COMPETITION SUR LA NOURRITURE

Compétition sur la nourriture...: "tortues allogènes" et "indigènes", étude espagnole.

Predator Recognition of Native (European Pond) But Not Invasive Turtle Predators (red-eared sliders) by naïve anuran tadpoles - Result- sliders out compete native turtles for food

Animal Behaviour

Volume 80, Issue 3, September 2010, Pages 461-46

Nuria Polo-Cavia^a, a, Adega Gonzalo¹, a, Pilar López¹, a

and José Martín¹, a

^a Departamento de Ecología Evolutiva, Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales, CSIC, Spain



The impact of alien predators on prey populations is well known by conservation biologists, but little attention has been paid to the negative effects that the introduction of exotic predators may have on native predators through competition for food. In the Iberian Peninsula, the red-eared slider, *Trachemys scripta elegans*, and other exotic freshwater turtles have been introduced, competing and displacing the native endangered terrapins (the European pond turtle, *Emys orbicularis*, and the Spanish terrapin, *Mauremys leprosa*).

Although the nature of competitive interactions remains unclear, direct competition for food is likely to occur. Both native and invasive freshwater turtles are common predators of amphibian tadpoles. Naïve amphibian tadpoles are known to recognize and respond to local predators with no prior experience, but tadpoles might not recognize new predatory species, since they have not shared a long evolutionary history with them. We examined the ability of fo!



Our species of Iberian anuran tadpoles to recognize and respond to chemical cues from invasive and native freshwater predatory turtles. Three of the four tadpole species tested reduced their swimming activity when cues from native turtles were present in water, but not when cues belonged to exotic turtles. This inability of tadpole prey to respond innately to chemicals from introduced predatory turtles might be one of the causes that explains the displacement of native populations of Iberian terrapins by invasive exotic turtles, and may help clarify why alien predators sometimes prosper better in new habitats than locally adapted predators.

Correspondence and present address: N. Polo-Cavia, Departamento de Biología, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Ciudad Universitaria de Cantoblanco, 28049 Madrid, Spain.

CONSEQUENCES DE LA MARE NOIRE DE BP DANS LE GOLFE DU MEXIQUE

Témoignage :

BP Burning Sea Turtles Alive
RedOrbit, Thursday, 6/24/10

A boat captain says that he has seen BP ships burning sea turtles and other wildlife alive in the Gulf of Mexico.

Captain Mike Ellis, who is working to rescue sea turtles, said in an interview by Catherine Craig that BP boats are conducting controlled burns to get rid of the oil.

"They drag a boom between two shrimp boats and whatever gets caught between the two boats, they circle it up and catch it on fire. Once the turtles are in there, they can't get out," Ellis told Craig.

He said he had to cut his three-week trip rescuing the turtles short because BP quit allowing him access to rescue turtles before the burns.

"They're pretty much keeping us from doing what we need to do out there," Ellis said.

A report in the Los Angeles Times says the "burn fields" are 500 square miles in which 16 controlled burns will take place in a day.

"When the weather is calm and the sea is placid, ships trailing fireproof booms corral the black oil, the coated seaweed and whatever may be caught in it, and torch it into hundred-foot flames, sending plumes of smoke skyward in ebony mushrooms," the article says.

Ellis said that the turtles he has seen are Kemps Ridley turtles, which is a critically endangered species. Harming or killing one would bring stiff civil and criminal penalties and fines up to \$50,000 against BP.

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Editeur : Alain Veysset

Traductions : Marion Montreuil

Mise en page : Amel Bougueroua

Les membres du bureau :

Alain Veysset : Président

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