

Emys Conservation

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

Lettre n°21

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Chers collègues et amis,

Les preux chevaliers du Moyen-Age, sans peur et sans reproche, aimaient le beau geste, mais moins celui que leur imposait le quotidien, traquer à cheval le paysan gêneur en fuite et le transpercer de leur lance... A-t-on bien changé d'époque quand un jeune écologiste de 21 ans est victime d'un gendarme qui lui tire dans le dos une grenade offensive ? En tout cas, la même communication, main sur le cœur, c'est un accident, la loi et la démocratie ont été respectées ! Et chaque fois de consternants gouvernements de « gauche » impliqués (soutenus à cette occasion, par une « droite » tout aussi consternante...): le « Rainbow Warrior » en 1985, dynamité par la DGSE sous Mitterrand, provoquant la mort du photographe Fernando Pereira et celle de Rémi Fraisse le 26 octobre dernier qui manifestait contre le barrage de Sivens (Tarn). Renseignement pris, il n'y avait pas, à notre connaissance, de cistudes dans la zone menacée par cette construction, mais ces barrages ont déjà provoqué la disparition de populations entières ailleurs.

Le Moyen-Age, on en parle aussi dans la Lettre N°6 du Groupe Cistude de la SHF (gros travail de recueil des communications des JT de février 2013 et même plus...) avec cette petite recette d'époque de « cistudes frites aux groseilles » ... Difficile à avaler de nos jours... Elle me rappelle cette histoire que Thomas Vaucouleur (jeune), m'avait racontée lors d'un stage au Togo : une fête de village où il était invité à manger le « ragoût viande de brousse », et nageant au milieu de son assiette, une main, celle d'un singe, comme une petite main d'enfant... On peut comprendre que les africains aiment la viande... Mais il y a des cuisines qui révoltent aujourd'hui et des animaux qu'on ne veut plus voir au menu.

Le thème du dernier congrès de la SHF à Caen, du 9 au 11 octobre 2014, était très riche : « Les incidences des activités agricoles et industrielles sur l'herpétofaune ». Il posait entre autres, la question des divers produits chimiques qui « assaisonnent » le milieu naturel. L'industrie chimique prend son envol avec la 1^{ère} guerre mondiale et FRITZ HABER qui invente le gaz de combat, reçoit le prix Nobel de chimie en 1920 (boycott de la cérémonie par les Français et les Anglais). Les industriels de ce secteur reconvertissent le gaz de guerre en pesticides après la guerre : on assassine la nature désormais... Pas pour longtemps, il redevient gaz humainement mortel pour la 2^{ème} GM, l'insecticide Zyklon B est servi pour les juifs et les tziganes... (Désinfection radicale d'insectes humains qui amusait beaucoup Hitler...). Et de nouveau DDT, phtalates, bisphénol A, produits systémiques... après le conflit... IG-Farben est dissoute, mais aucun industriel de la chimie n'est poursuivi par les alliés, pas même les chimistes français qui produisaient en France le Zyklon B en soutien aux destructions allemandes (il n'est interdit en France qu'en 1988 !). Impunité complète pour ces empoisonneurs du genre humain et de la nature...

Incapacité totale des Etats à contrôler cette production mortelle : 15, 20 ans de protestations avant que les gouvernements ne réagissent et lancent 10 ans de recherches coûteuses pour interdire un produit, qui de toute façon reste encore 40 ans dans le sol, l'air et l'eau et, au rythme de 30000 molécules nouvelles par mois, aucun état ne peut suivre cette fuite en avant des apprentis-sorciers et limiter l'emballage de ce puissant lobby qui fait la loi et empoisonne la planète (à lire, de Fabrice Nicolino : « Chimie moderne, un empoisonnement universel » mais aussi Rachel Carson « Le printemps silencieux » repris par Jean Dorst « Avant que nature meure »)... Constat du Congrès : une régression générale de l'herpétofaune, même des espèces abondantes il y a 10ans (la chimie n'étant pas seule en cause, on déplore aussi l'urbanisation, le trafic routier, la suppression des haies, les retenues d'eau...).

A La lumière de ce qui s'est passé dans le Tarn et de mes réflexions dans la Lettre N°20, les textes de loi sur l'environnement sont plus que jamais des rideaux de fumée qui laissent les mains libres aux aménageurs. Leurs lobbys les vident de tout contenu. « La loi triche » comme dit la chanson et la défense des milieux naturels, nous contraint à passer parfois par d'autres moyens, à risques, pour ceux qui se mobilisent et résistent.

Alain Veyssset, rédacteur

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

The Middle Ages valiant knights, fearless and above reproach, love the noble gesture but they do less when the daily life impose on them to track down on horseback the runaway intruder peasant and pierce him with their spears... Are we really in an other age when a 21 year old young ecologist is killed by an offensive grenade fired by a gendarme behind his back ? Anyway, the same speech hand over the heart is spoken, it is an accident, laws and democracy are respected ! And each time the disquieting leftist governments are implicated (supported on that occasion by also the disquieting right-wing parties) : in 1985, the « Rainbow Warrior », the Greenpeace boat was dynamited by the French secret service (when Mitterrand was President) which led to the death of a photographer Fernando Perreira and now, this 26 of October 2014, the death of Rémi Fraisse who demonstrated against the dam of Sivens (Tarn). After asking informations, we know that there is no *Emys orbicularis* impacted by this project even if they disappear because of these dams elsewhere.

The Middle Ages are also mentioned in the Letter N°6 of the « Emys Group of the SHF » (Great job of collecting all the communications and more of the JT's, French Emys meeting, February 2013...) in this little recipe of that era : « Emys fried with redcurrants »... Difficult to swallow nowadays... That reminds me of this story by Thomas Vaucouleur (as a young man). During a professional training in Togo he was invited to a village feast and ate the « stew meat of bush », at his surprise, he saw, swimming in his plate, a hand of a monkey like a little hand of a child... We can understand that Africans like meat... But some cooking are disgusting today and we don't want anymore of certain animals in the menu.

The topic of the last Congress of the SHF was very rich. It was held in Caen from the 9th to the 11th of October 2014 and was about : « The impact of the agricultural and industrial activities on the herpetofauna ». It raises among other questions the one of the various chemical products which « season » the natural environment. The chemical industry took off with the First World War and FRITZ HABER who invented the poison gas, received the Nobel prize in chemistry in 1920 (the ceremony was boycotted by the French and the English scientists). The chemical industry converted the fighting gas in pesticides after the war : from then, nature has been assassinated ... It became fatal again for human beings during the Second World War, the insecticide Zyclon B has been used for the Jews and the Gypsies... (Hitler said it was « radical disinfection of human insects » and that amused him a lot...). And once again DDT, phtalates, bisphenol A, systematic products... After the conflict, IG-Farben has been broken up but not a single chemical industrialist is taken to court by the Allies, not even the french chemists who produced in France the Zyclon B in support to the german destructions (it is forbidden in France only in 1988 !). Complete impunity for these poisoners of mankind and nature...

Total inability of the States to control this mortal production : 15-20 years of protestations before the reaction of the governments, 10 years in expensive research to forbid a product and anyway it will stay 40 years more in the ground, in the air, in the water... To the rhythm of 30000 new molecules each month, no State can follow this flight toward the sorcerer's apprentices and limit the crazes of this powerfull lobby who makes the law and poisons the Earth. (Please read : Fabrice Nicolino : « Chimie moderne, un empoisonnement universel » and also : Rachel Carson « Le printemps silencieux » continued by Jean Dorst « Avant que nature meure »)... Official report of the Congress : a general regression of the French herpetofauna even for the species which were ten years ago plentiful (chemistry is not the only cause, we also deplore the urbanization, the traffic, the suppression of the hedges and the dams...).

In the light of what happened in Tarn as well as my thought in N°20 Letter, the environment laws are more than ever blankets of smoke which give the developers a free hand. Their lobbies deprive them of all meaning. « The law cheats » as the song says and the defense of natural areas oblige us to use sometimes other means, sometimes at high-risk, for those who rally and resist.

Alain Veyssset, redactor



Les participants à la journée Cistude de 2013
Merci à tous pour votre participation !

L'Alsace accueille les prochaines journées techniques « Cistude » 2015
4 et 5 février 2015

Le Conseil Général du Bas-Rhin accueille et organise les prochaines
journées techniques cistude les 4 et 5 février 2015.
Suivis, gestion, sensibilisation, réglementation, recherche...
envoyez vos propositions de communication à :
fabrice.levresse@cg67.fr

Base documentaire sur la cistude

Pensez à envoyer une copie .pdf de vos publications et rapports de stage validés à :

Claude NOTTEBAERT
20 rue de l'Epinère
17380 LES NOUILLERS
Tél 05 46 74 51 99

claudeno@club-internet.fr

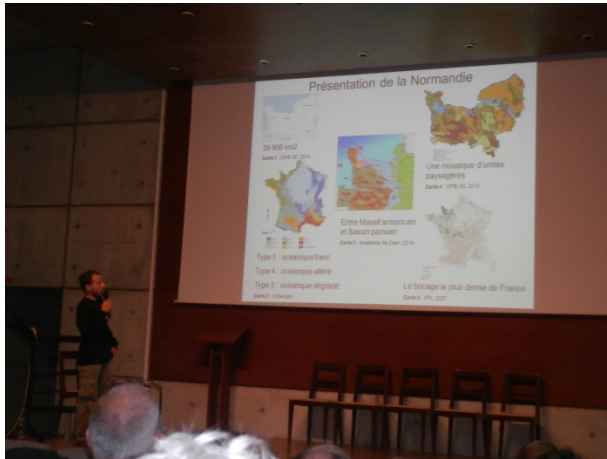
Claude NOTTEBAERT tient à jour une base documentaire exhaustive sur la cistude :
littérature «grise» et scientifique

Merci aux différents auteurs pour la rédaction des textes
Conception graphique : Frédéric BIAMINO / CEN Savoie
Octobre 2014



Elles auront lieu à Strasbourg à l'Hôtel du Département, inscriptions : fabrice.levresse@cg67.fr

Quelques images du congrès SHF de Caen du 9 au 11 octobre 2014



Excellent accueil normand, dans l'emprise



du château médiéval qui surplombe la ville, restaurant sur place, j'ai été hébergé à Ouistreham chez un ami, proche du dernier commando



Kieffer,

Olivier Swift avec le thème du congrès...



Cornélius et Bernard, ce dernier nous a fait passer une mémorable soirée de banquet avec son groupe de musique country et irlandaise...

IMPORTANT POINTS TO GET ACROSS

- MOVIE PREMIERES 8/8/14. TURTLE MOST OFTEN SOLD ARE BABY RED-EARED



SLIDERS. (SEE PHOTO).

- FOR THE MOMENT SEND ALL COMMENTS TO AMERICAN TORTOISE RESCUE (INFO@TORTOISE.COM).
- TELL PARENTS OF SALMONELLA DANGER, TO SMALL CHILDREN, PEOPLE ON CHEMO AND WITH IMMUNE DEFICIENCY DISEASES. GO TO WEBSITE OF CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL TO CONFIRM.
- ZOOS, HERP SOCIETIES, OR WILDLIFE RESCUE ORGANIZATIONS WILL NOT TAKE THEM FROM YOU.
- IN FLORIDA, THE MOST COMMON TURTLE SOLD IS ILLEGAL TO SELL OR OWN. BABY RED EAREDS SLIDERS
(THOSE PICTURED UPON)
- IF YOUR CHILD INSISTS ON A LIVE BABY TURTLE. PLEASE RESIST. ITS LIKE BUYING THEM ANOTHER DISPOSABLE NINJA TOY, BUT ONE THAT YOU WIND UP TRYING TO TAKE CARE OF.
- ONE FROM OUR EXPERIENCE, THEY WILL GET BORED OF, IT WILL DIE AN EARLY AND INHUMANE DEATH IF NOT TAKEN CARE OF PROPERLY (WHICH CAN COST A MINIMUM OF \$100.00)
- IT'S LIKE BUYING YOUR CHILD ANOTHER DISPOSABLE TOY.
- SO BUY THEM ONE OF THE MANY PLASTIC ACTION FIGURES, AND OTHER NINJA TURTLE ITEMS AVAILABLE.

From: American Tortoise Rescue <info@tortoise.com>

Subject: **Letter to Parents Regarding the Ninja Turtles Movie**

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)



Letter to Parents About the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle Movie

Dear Parents:

We're asking you to save a turtle's life and perhaps even your child's.

In August, your children will be enjoying another edition of the extremely popular Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles movie. This will include a whole new generation of kids who missed the 2007 animated film. It's fun and great entertainment.



But, we are writing this to ask for your help. Since the first movie was released in 1990, hundreds of thousands of live turtles, mostly water turtles called red eared sliders, were purchased for between \$10 and \$25 after each ninja movie was released. The result? Many, if not most, were dumped and even deliberately killed or flushed down the toilet. Remember people buying thousands of dogs that ended up in shelters after 101 Dalmatians came out? Same problem.

Unfortunately, children do not realize that real turtles do not fly, perform stunts or do any of the exciting moves fictional movie turtles do. Parents, trying to please their children, purchased live turtles which ended up languishing in tanks. Or, when the kids realized after a few weeks that these were not ninja turtles, the turtles were dumped illegally into rivers and lakes as well as dumpsters, flushed down toilets or relinquished to shelters and overcrowded rescues. It's estimated that 90 percent died. As an aside, zoos do not take turtles.



Turtles have been around for 200 million years and outlived the dinosaur. Is this the way we want to treat our precious wildlife? Most of these turtles are taken out of the wild and sold to pet stores, breeders and mercados for profit.

Here's the bigger problem. Turtles carry salmonella which can make a child very, very sick and can even kill them. That's why turtles less than four inches were banned from sale in the U.S. in 1974 and still are...tiny turtles easily fit into a child's mouth. Children also tend to touch the water and don't wash their hands. It's an ugly problem. A nine month old baby in Los Angeles got salmonella meningitis from a turtle after its parents touched it and then held the baby. We do not recommend live turtles or tortoises for children under 13 because of salmonella exposure and because the kids lose interest almost immediately.

What can you do to help? Buy Ninja action figures and toys instead of live turtles and save a turtle's life, and perhaps even your child's.

Thank you. (Please spread the word and forward this email.)

Susan Tellem and Marshall Thompson, Co-founders,

American Tortoise Rescue

Traffic in Thailand and TCF Grants Programs

9/26/14 - Wildlife Extra

Nearly 20,000 tortoises and freshwater turtles have been smuggled through Thailand in six years says a new report by the wildlife monitoring agency TRAFFIC.

Their report, entitled [Seizures of Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles in Thailand 2008-2013](#), analysed 53 reported seizures, more than half of which took place at Suvarnabhumi International Airport in Bangkok.

But despite this staggering number they found just a third of the seizures resulted in the arrest of 40 suspects, and only six successful prosecutions were recorded.

“It is encouraging that enforcement officers in Thailand are carrying out such significant seizures, but it really is the follow-up investigations and successful prosecutions that make these seizures effective,” said Dr Chris Shepherd, Regional Director for TRAFFIC in South-East Asia.

Of the 33 species seizures, the Southeast Asian box turtle was the most numerous, with approximately 7,120 animals seized in a single case in 2011, while almost 6,000 Indian star tortoises were seized during the six year period.

Illegal shipments were found to enter by air from countries in East Africa and South Asia, and by road from neighbouring countries through overland routes along the Mekong coast and at other border crossings.

Tortoises and freshwater turtles are commonly traded for food, medicine and the exotic pet trade.

Trade in these species is prohibited or restricted under various national and international legislations, such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Additionally, in Thailand permits are required for the import and export of all wildlife.

Next Proposal Deadline For Both Programs:

December 1, 2014

The Turtle Conservation Fund (TCF) now administers two turtle conservation and research grants programs. Awards are granted to organizations or individuals for specific conservation or research projects dealing with tortoises or freshwater turtles, but not marine turtles, with either partial or full support as funding allows.

Standard Grant Program: Standard grants focus on projects regarding 1) species listed as IUCN Critically Endangered, 2) species that are on the TCF Priority Species List (recently revised, see below), or 3) species other than those listed, provided a convincing rationale is included why the species' conservation status merits funding from the TCF. Awards at the present time are approximately in the US \$2000 to \$5000 range per project, with occasional funding up to \$10,000.

Seed Grant Program: Seed grants focus on projects regarding 1) species listed as IUCN Critically Endangered or Endangered, 2) species that are on the TCF Priority Species List (recently revised, see below), or 3) species that may become priority species as our knowledge increases about the threats they face or their population status (principally species currently classified by IUCN as Not Evaluated or Data Deficient). Information collected will fill gaps in our knowledge of the conservation status of the species, or indicate needed follow-up conservation work. The maximum amount of each seed grant is US \$1000, but smaller grant requests are also encouraged.

TCF's highest priority species targeted for funding are listed below (list recently revised).

Award recipients for both grant programs enter into contractual agreement with one of our partner organizations (Conservation International, Chelonian Research Foundation or EAZA Shellshock Campaign) to produce the proposed work. Award recipients are also encouraged to publish at least partial results of the supported research in the international scientific turtle journal, Chelonian Conservation and Biology, published by TCF Alliance Partner Chelonian Research Foundation ([CRF](#); www.chelonian.org).

For further information and application guidelines go to www.TurtleConservationFund.org

Une tortue fossilisée de 90 millions d'années, au milieu du désert du Nouveau Mexique.

SCIENCE - Imaginez, vous faites tranquillement une randonnée, et vous tombez sur des fossiles préhistoriques. C'est ce qui est arrivé au randonneur Jeff Dornbusch, qui a eu la chance de découvrir [une tortue fossilisée de 90 millions d'années](#) en plein milieu d'un désert.

Travailleur volontaire dans un musée de Truth or Consequences, ville du Nouveau-Mexique, dans le sud-ouest des Etats-Unis, Jeff Dornbusch, a repéré il y a un peu plus de 10 ans un tas de rochers qui a attiré son attention. Le [Las Cruces Sun-News](#) rapporte qu'il n'a pas réussi à retrouver l'endroit avant 2012. C'est alors qu'il a prévenu des scientifiques locaux qui ont confirmé son intuition: il s'agissait de fragments d'une tortue datant de 90 millions d'années.

Le 29 octobre 2014, les chercheurs sont retournés sur les lieux pour extraire les fossiles du sol, comme on peut le constater dans la photo ci-dessous:



Chercheurs du Musée d'histoire naturelle du Nouveau-Mexique en train d'extraire les fragments le 29 octobre 2014

Il s'agit d'une *Adocus*, une espèce de tortue aquatique. Evidemment, à l'époque, l'environnement n'était pas désertique. "En gros, c'était un environnement marécageux, proche d'un rivage", explique Tom Suazo, préparateur de fossiles au Musée d'histoire naturelle du Nouveau-Mexique, [à Sun-News](#).

A l'aide de volontaires, les chercheurs ont pu exhumer des morceaux d'os fossilisés et de carapace de la tortue.



Vertèbre de la tortue trouvée le 29 octobre On ne pourra pas voir la tortue tant que le musée n'aura pas mis tous les fossiles en ordre. Tous les fossiles [seront ensuite exposés](#) au sein du Musée d'histoire naturelle du Nouveau-Mexique.

NEW BOOK : Turtles, Tortoises and Terrapins, a Natural History (Second Edition).

BY Ronald Orenstein

9" X 11", more than 300 full color photographs, range maps, bibliography, index
LIST PRICE \$60.00 NOW ONLY \$40.00 PLUS \$12.00 FOR S&H. OVERSEAS EMAIL US AT
ASALZBERG@HERPDIGEST.ORG FOR QUOTE.

REVIEWS OF THE SECOND EDITION - *With deft prose and engaging anecdotes, Mr. Orenstein takes us skillfully through a vast amount of information packaged to be remembered without undue effort. ... In essence, Mr. Orenstein's treatment is nothing short of masterly.*

--Science Books and Films

Abounds with excellent color photographs. Recommended for all public and academic libraries.

-- Library Journal

This new edition has 150 more pages than the first edition.

Since this book was first published a decade ago, turtle, tortoise and terrapin species have continued to suffer from human intervention. Sought for food, as pets and for tortoiseshell they are under attack on land and sea and populations are in decline around the world due to loss of habitat and food sources. At the same time, however, humans have been working hard to ensure the survival of turtles, tortoises and terrapins. Understanding these species is not only interesting but critical to their future.

Turtles, tortoises and terrapins have been on Earth since the Triassic Period, approximately 200 million years ago. It has long been unclear from which group of reptiles turtles sprang. Although the earliest fossils are clearly turtles, their anatomy changed dramatically over time. In addition, turtle species vary greatly in such basic characteristics as anatomy and habitat preferences. Turtles, Tortoises and Terrapins surveys turtle anatomy, their habitat and life cycles throughout the ages, bringing the knowledge up to date with recent discoveries and research.

Contents include:

- Why Turtles Matter
- What Turtles Are
- How Turtles Live
- Will Turtles Survive?
- Turtles of the World
- Turtle Watching
- How to Help Conserve Turtles

The battle to save turtles goes on, and this book provides an important voice in turtle ecology. Turtles, Tortoises and Terrapins is the perfect resource for anyone interested in these amazing and diverse reptiles.

It has long been unclear from which group of reptiles turtles sprang. Although the earliest fossils are clearly turtles, their anatomy changed dramatically over time. In addition, turtle species vary greatly in such basic characteristics as anatomy and habitat preferences. Turtles, Tortoises and Terrapins surveys turtle anatomy, their habitat and life cycles throughout the ages, bringing the knowledge up to date with recent discoveries and research.

Ronald Orenstein is a zoologist, lawyer and wildlife conservationist who has written extensively on a wide variety of ecology and conservation issues. He is currently the project director of the International Wildlife Coalition.



The “European” pond turtle (*Emys orbicularis*) is a widely distributed species, occurring not only in the European continent, as suggested by its common name. Its range embraces part of the northern African Maghreb region, much of southern and western Europe, Anatolia and vast parts of eastern Europe and adjacent Asia. It is a genetically deeply structured species, and the Sicilian pond turtle was recognized as a distinct species (*E. trinacris*) some years ago. The future will show whether additional genetic lineages currently recognized as subspecies of *E. orbicularis* will be also elevated to species status. In any case, the diversity of genetic and taxonomic structuring corresponds to the diverse habitats in which the turtles occur, ranging from mild Mediterranean climate to severe steppe climate with frosty, long winters. All of this diversity has implications for conservation strategies because the turtles are endangered in much of their range, necessitating individually designed solutions and approaches, depending from the local situation. Pond turtles are often locally already extinct, and where still occurring, imperilled by habitat alteration mainly, but also by introduced neozoa, such as raccoon and raccoon dog. These species are predating turtles in a previously unknown extent, especially in the northern part of their range, where the turtles are more prone to these predators than elsewhere – not least due to their long generation time and low annual reproduction rate. Another imminent danger may be caused by the naturalized red-eared slider turtle (*Trachemys scripta elegans*) and other slider turtles. These relatives of the “European” species may directly outcompete the native turtle, but they also could introduce alien pathogens and harmful parasites. A further risk for *Emys* could be even arising from well-meant conservation actions, when locally endangered populations are restocked with genetically incompatible individuals. Yet, while the endangered and susceptible status of European pond turtles is generally recognized and also reflected by legislation, the knowledge of its status and local threats varies considerably from country to country. Even worse, despite many conservation actions carried out all over the distribution range, many conservationists are not aware of what is going on in other countries, and concerted actions across political borders remain an exception, despite many similar data being currently collected in the different countries. Ideally, similar data collection methods should be applied and the data obtained possibly being interpreted singularly and all together across the distribution range of the species, to highlight ecological and physiological patterns and processes in this species.

This collection of articles on the conservation activities for European pond turtles, published in *Herpetology Notes*, is intended as a first step to remedy the current situation. We are hopeful that the cork is now out of the bottle and the good genie starts to work!

Herpetology Notes, volume 6: 105 (2013) (published online on 22 March 2013)

Conservation actions for European pond turtles – a summary of current efforts in distinct European countries
Uwe Fritz¹ and Ylenia Chiari²

¹ Museum of Zoology, Senckenberg Dresden, A. B. Meyer Buidling, 01109 Dresden, Germany

² CIBIO, Centro de Investigação em Biodiversidade e Recursos

Genéticos / Universidade do Porto, Campus Agrário de

Vairão, 4485-661 Vairão, Portugal

Accepted by Zoltan T. Nagy



Cistudes de Minorque

de La Vall, présentation aux touristes, et d'Ets Alocs : U.Zicicchio (nom traditionnel sicilien), la nouvelle espèce sicilienne (*E. trinacris*) est présente dans l'île d'après U.Fritz.

For Information on How to Order The Following Books and Magazines Go To:

<http://herpdigest.org/books.html>

The Tortoise Magazine #1, 2, 3 -Each are 160 glossy pages long and contain over 160 color photos.

Turtles: The Animal Answer Guide

By Whit Gibbons and Judy Greene

The Map Turtle and Sawback Atlas: Ecology, Evolution, Distribution, and Conservation

By Peter V. Lindeman

The Man Who Saved Sea Turtles: Archie Carr and the Origins of Conservation Biology

By Frederick R. Davis

Turtles of the United States and Canada (Second Edition)

By by Carl H. Ernst and Jeffrey E. Lovich

Turtles of the World

By Carl H. Ernst and Roger W. Barbour (new: reprint of 1992 ediiton)

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L'équipe de rédaction :

Editeur : Alain Veysset

Corrections : Thierry Fretey, Elodie Veysset

Les membres du bureau :

Alain Veysset : Président

Jean Servan : Vice-Président

Maryse Servan : Trésorière

Remerciements :

Logo : Pierre DEOM, rédacteur de La Hulotte

Soutien : Soptom (France) - Carapax (Italie) - CRT (Espagne)

Informations, crédits photos : Allen Salzberg et Herdigest (U.S.A), Thierry Fretey, Alain Veysset, Internet...



