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Lettre n°28

Décembre 2017

SOMMAIRE

Chers collègues et amis,

Des inventaires, des études de terrain ont été réalisés en France, ces dernières années pour un peu mieux appréhender l'état des populations de cistudes, en marge des principales zones de présence. **Le résultat n'est pas folichon**. Il ne reste qu'une seule population viable en Basse-Durance, d'après l'article du *Bull.Soc. Herp. Fr. (2017) 162 : 1-16* « Distribution de la Cistude d'Europe *Emys orbicularis* (Linnaeus, 1758) en Basse-Durance : bilan après quatre années de prospection (1013-2016) » par Julien Renet, Françoise Boca, Caroline Legouez & Cédric Roy.

Une autre étude faite par l'association Nature Environnement-17 porte sur deux étangs menacés par le passage du LGV SEA : la Goujonne (Montguyon, 17) et la Clinette (Neuvicq, 17). Quatre années de suivi des déplacements des tortues juqu'en 2017 pour conclure que l'impact de l'emprise ferroviaire est minime et que par contre les populations ne semble pas au mieux, aucun juvénile n'est signalé. En Indre et Loire une étude réalisée par Charlotte Giordano et l'association Caudalis entre 2013 et 2014 sur deux étangs en marge de la Brenne conclut que les populations sont fragiles et que **des mesures de gestion sont d'urgence**, à mettre en place.

Les études sont donc réalisées, mais les moyens de gestion et de préservation ne suivent pas. Sauf quelques cas spécifiques comme l'Alsace ou la Savoie où une énergie ancienne et très forte a fait progresser les programmes.

Mon autre remarque porte sur la **« philosophie » Museum**. Je ne dis pas que l'œuvre de l'Alsacien Louis Amédée Lantz ne contribue pas à faire progresser la science… Mais sans conscience, où va-t-on ? Qu'en son temps, Louis Amédée ait été « accro » à la collectionnite et l'élevage… Mais qu'aujourd'hui, l'article du *Bull.Soc. Herp. Fr. (2017) 162* ne se pose pas plus de questions que cela sur les barrières à ne pas dépasser pour conserver **vivantes** des espèces menacées… Je suis en désaccord avec cette philosophie dépassée.

Car **les cadavres** ne manquent pas et pas toujours dans les placards… On les a sous le nez aussi, et on ne les voit pas. On peut se demander ce que deviennent les élevages de Louis Amédée après sa mort (euthanasie?). Rollinat lui a expressément demandé dans son testament que ses cistudes soient relâchées en Brenne où il les avait capturées, ce qui a été fait…

Il y a bien des années, j'ai visité le Landesmuseum de **Darmstadt** avec Ulrich Joger et cette année 2017, le Museum de **New York à Manhattan**, il y a à quelques semaines, pour Halloween… Mêmes images de centaines d'animaux naturalisés en vitrine, natures mortes, cadavres exquis dont vous allez profiter tout le long de cette lettre. Ulrich m'avait dit « du Museum à l'ancienne »…

« Musée des Merveilles » de Todd Haynes un excellent film, primé à Cannes, que je vous invite à aller tous regarder pour les fêtes, un itinéraire de ce qui a fait New York, avec des loups, si bien naturalisés, entre autres bestioles, qu'ils peuvent faire peur…
Bonnes fêtes de fin d'année, bonne année 2018 et excellente lecture à tous !

Alain Veysset, rédacteur

Inventories and field studies were made in France these last years to understand a little bit better the state of the population of Emys on the fringes of the main areas of presence. **The result is not bright**. It remains only one viable population in "Basse-Durance" according to the article of the *Bull.Soc. Herp. Fr. (2017) 162 : 1-16* « Distribution de la Cistude d'Europe *Emys orbicularis* (Linnaeus, 1758) en Basse-Durance : bilan après quatre années de prospection (1013-2016) » by Julien Renet, Françoise Boca, Caroline Legouez & Cédric Roy.

Another study made by the association Nature Environnement-17 was on two ponds threatened by the railway of the LGV-SEA : the Goujonne (Montguyon, 17) and the Clinette (Neuvicq, 17). Four years of survey to follow the trip of the turtles until 2017 and to conclude that the impact of this railway is negligible, to notice on the other hand that the population don't seems on its top form, no juvenile visible. In "Indre et Loire" a study realized by Charlotte Giordano and the association Caudalis between 2013 and 2014 on two ponds in the fringes of the Brenne area concludes that the population is fragile and that **management measures have to be taken immediately**.

Studies are made but the means for management and preservation don't follow. Except some specific cases like in Alsace and Savoy where a very strong and ancient energy helped the progression of the programs.

My other comment is on the **"Philosophy-Museum".** I don't say that the Alsacian Louis Amédée Lantz' works don't contribute to the progression of science. I only say: with no conscience, where are we going ? In his times Louis Amédée was an addict of collection and breeding… But today the article of the *Bull.Soc. Herp. Fr. (2017) 162* don't wonder about the barriers not to cross to conserve alive the endangered species… I disagree with this outdated philosophy.

And the **carcasses** are numerous and not always hidden. We have them in the face and we don't see them. We can wonder what become the livestock of Louis-Amédée after his death (euthanasia ?). Rollinat had expressly asked in his last will that the Emys captured in Brenne had to be liberated there. And that was done.

A long time ago I visited the **Darmstadt "Landesmuseum"** with Ulrich Joger and a few weeks ago, for Halloween, the **New York Museum** in Manhattan… The same pictures of hundred of animals naturalized in showcase, still life, exquisite corpses that you will get a lot reading this letter. Ulrich told me: " Museum in the traditional way…"

"Wonderstruck" from Todd Haynes an excellent film, which won an award at Cannes, I invite all of you to look at it for the fests, a route of what made New York with wolves so nice naturalized, with other creatures, that they may frightened…

Merry Christmas to everybody, happy new year 2018, enjoy reading !

Alain Veysset, editor

L'Europe au secours de la tortue cistude

Publié dans **SUD-OUEST** le 14/03/2014 à 0h00 par **Christine Morice**


La cistude d'Europe, une espèce protégée. photo DR

Des travaux ont lieu sur la zone de fret, sur l'emplacement d'un lieu de ponte.

Le chantier initié à l'automne par le **transporteur Ducros** sur la zone de fret de Bruges, en limite de la réserve naturelle, fait réagir la Commission européenne qui a lancé une enquête, selon la députée européenne du Sud-Ouest Catherine Grèze. En effet, la parcelle vendue par la CUB à l'entreprise bordelaise, est réputée pour être **« un site de ponte majeur »** pour les cistudes, une espèce protégée.

« **Les Marais de Bruges** sont classés Natura 2000 donc l'Europe veille. La commission européenne m'a assuré qu'elle allait vérifier sous peu que les dispositions européennes étaient bien respectées » réagit Catherine Grèze, basée à Toulouse et membre d'Europe Écologie-Les Verts. « Rappelons que la cistude est la seule tortue aquatique continentale et la seule espèce autochtone en France métropolitaine. Sa population connaît un déclin très rapide, c'est pourquoi l'Europe a décidé de la protéger ».

Une autre écologiste est montée au créneau sur le sujet et c'est elle, d'ailleurs qui a sollicité l'intervention de la députée européenne. Il s'agit de la conseillère communautaire **Marie-Claude Noël, élue EELV** à Bordeaux. « L'entreprise ayant acquis la parcelle abritant les nids de cistudes d'Europe a démarré les travaux sans faire de demande de dérogation préalable » déclare-t-elle. « Cette demande aurait de toute évidence été refusée par les autorités compétentes puisqu'elle nuit au maintien des espèces concernées dans leur habitat naturel. Ainsi, l'implantation ou le dimensionnement du projet aurait certainement été revue. Le fait que le préfet demande à l'entreprise de déposer une demande de dérogation après destruction semble n'être qu'une simple régularisation administrative. Plus globalement, nous sommes face à un problème récurrent de manque de prise en compte de la nature, en amont des projets. En effet, ce terrain n'aurait jamais dû être cédé à une entreprise et il n'aurait jamais dû être classé en zone d'activité » réagit l'élue. « Sa gestion aurait pu être intégrée à la Réserve naturelle des marais de Bruges dont elle est limitrophe. C'est d'ailleurs ce qui est prévu pour le lambeau de terrain restant à proximité. »

De son côté, Jean Ducros, le président de l'entreprise de transport, explique que le chantier a bien avancé et que la société bordelaise devrait s'installer en juin sur la zone de fret où un bâtiment est en construction. « Nous avons appris après le début des travaux que nous aurions dû remplir une demande de dérogation. Personne ne nous l'avait demandée auparavant. » L'affaire pourrait encore alimenter la chronique locale puisque selon Philippe Barbadienne, directeur de la **Sepanso**, **une plainte contre x** pour destruction d'habitat d'espèce protégée et destruction d'espèce protégée a été déposée par l'association de défense de la nature.

CHRISTINE MORICE (c.morice@sudouest.fr)

La cistude sort de sa carapace

La Nouvelle République : Publié le 19/08/2017 à 05:35 | Mis à jour le 19/08/2017 à 05:57

La petite tortue fait l'objet de toutes les attentions **en Sologne**. © *(Photo Guilhem Mollera, SNE)*

Les moines en faisaient leur délice le vendredi. A se demander s'ils n'avaient pas creusé les étangs de Sologne rien que pour abriter cet animal à la chair délicate, que sa vie aquatique permettait de classer dans la catégorie poissons…

Ce n'est cependant pas l'appétit des moines qui met aujourd'hui la petite cistude – 20 cm et 1 kg maximum – en danger, mais la destruction et la modification des zones humides au fil des ans, et la passion parfois bornée de certains aquariophiles. L'animal, qu'on appelle aussi tortue des marais, pâtit de la concurrence d'espèces exotiques introduites par l'homme, **écrevisse de Louisiane et tortue de Floride** en particulier. Pourtant, l'abondance d'étangs et de zones humides devrait faire de la Sologne un petit paradis pour les cistudes. L'association s'y emploie activement, dans le cadre du plan régional d'action en faveur de la cistude d'Europe. Deux sites principaux de reproduction ont pu être été identifiés, à Saint-Viâtre et Marcilly-en-Gault, et sont suivis de près. Cette jolie tortue d'eau douce est facilement reconnaissable aux points jaune vif qu'elle porte sur le corps. Discrète et craintive, elle aime s'exposer au soleil – c'est son côté reptile –, mais plonge au moindre danger. Les lieux ensoleillés et paisibles, protégés par une végétation aquatique dense, ont logiquement sa préférence.
La cistude sort d'hibernation aux premiers beaux jours, et reste active jusqu'en octobre. La femelle quitte le milieu aquatique à partir de la mi-mai et jusqu'en juillet, pour chercher un site de ponte sur la terre ferme.
La principale curiosité concernant les cistudes concerne le sexe des petits. Si la température dans le nid contenant les œufs, 8 ou 9 en moyenne, est en dessous de 28°, naîtront des mâles. Si elle est au-dessus de 29°, ce sera des femelles ! Encore une espèce que le réchauffement climatique ne va pas aider.

Pour en savoir plus : « Amphibiens et reptiles du Loir-et-Cher », ouvrage collectif, 15 € dans les bonnes librairies. Catherine Simon

La « nature », quand tous les animaux font le spectacle ensemble…

Here's why hundreds of desert tortoises can be moved off Marine Corps base (California)

The Press Enterprise, by David Danelski, Feb. 8, 2017.

Plans by the Marine Corps to move as many as 1,500 desert tortoises from a Twentynine Palms training base expansion area have cleared a major hurdle.
Federal wildlife officials based in Palm Springs have completed an analysis that found that moving the reptiles, which are listed as threatened with extinction, wouldn't jeopardize the survival of the species.
The finding puts the Marines on track to move the tortoises out of the Johnson Valley this spring so they can use the land for live-ammunition training missions with tanks and ground troops. Congress in 2013 added some 88,000 acres of the valley area to the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center at Twentynine Palms.
Tortoises have been moved from military and solar development sites in the past, but the Twentynine Palms endeavor would be the largest such move ever in the Mojave Desert, say wildlife officials.

Biologists plan to capture the animals and transport them by helicopters to Bureau of Land Management areas outside the combat center's new boundaries. Most of the tortoises already have had radio transmitters affixed to their shells so they can be more easily located.
The move still needs final sign-offs from the Navy and Interior Department officials.
Marine Corps officials at Twentynine Palms plan to brief Navy Secretariat staff members on the environmental studies, said 1st Lt. Karen Holliday, a base spokeswoman, in an email.

"A decision from the Navy on the project could be as early as late this week," her email said.
The timing of the approval is important because tortoises spend the cold winter and hot summer months in underground burrows. It is best to move them when they are active and above the ground in the spring or fall. In the spring, it's generally best to move tortoises between late March and early May, wildlife experts say.
The move is opposed by environmentalists, who say the imperiled reptiles can't afford to lose more of their natural range.
"It is going to be a direct hit on the limited amount of habitat the desert tortoise has left at a time when their numbers are declining," said Ileene Anderson, a wildlife biologist with the Center for Biological Diversity.

But military officials have said the use of Johnson Valley for training exercises will enhance national security by expanding the reach of large-scale, live-ammunition operations. Such missions involve three battalions operating in extreme desert heat in real-world warfare conditions
The analysis by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, called a biological opinion, is an essential step before the relocation effort may start.
It found that the moved tortoises are expected to survive at the same rates as those that are not moved, said Brian Croft, a biologist and chief of the wildlife service's West Mojave Desert Division and an author of the analysis.

Croft added that the BLM land that will receive the tortoises should have enough food resources for the newcomers as well as the tortoises already living in those areas.
"We looked for places where the population densities were already low," he said.g
One potential problem is that the relocated tortoises may be more vulnerable to coyotes.

The military plans to shoot coyotes if such predation becomes excessive, but they hope such measures are not necessary, Croft said. Coyotes can be legally hunted in California all year long.

The illegal turtle trade: Why scientists keep secrets (AT https://motherboard.vice.com/en_us/article/59ygkd/how-to-remove-gps-data-location-information-from-photos is an article on how to scrub GPS data from your photos with videos)

October 22, 2017

The illegal trade in turtles is thriving in Canada and harming turtle populations. (Shutterstock)
Author-Jacqueline Litzgus Professor, Department of Biology, Laurentian University

I could tell you where I work, but then I'd have to kill you.
OK, not really; that seems extreme. But I might blindfold you if I took you there. Now you're wondering what kind of work could justify such secrecy.

I bet you aren't thinking "turtles."

Turtles are in trouble. Some researchers have even used the term "crisis" to describe their plight. This turtle decline is a global issue, affecting freshwater turtles, tortoises and sea turtles. Two-thirds of turtle species are at risk of extinction.

After more than 200 million years of plodding around the globe unchallenged and anatomically unchanged, turtles could now be facing their final lap.
We're their biggest threat. Turtles are crushed by cars and buried alive by bulldozers. Their habitats are whittled away by our insatiable appetite for big box stores and waterfront condos.

Their otherwise formidable shells were not designed to withstand these human assaults, because humans weren't a threat when this turtle armour was first making its appearance in evolutionary time.

The World Wildlife Fund Living Planet Report asserts that populations of vertebrate animals have decreased in abundance by 58 per cent in the past 50 years. Over-exploitation, second only to habitat loss and degradation, is a major threat to animal populations.

Turtles are not excused from such exploitation, which includes unsustainable harvesting and bycatch during other resource extraction activities such as fishing. Turtles and tortoises are eaten with religious zeal, their eggs and body parts consumed under false promises of improved health, greater longevity and a better sex life. Spotted Turtles concentrate at breeding sites in the spring making them an easy target for poachers. (Flickr)

Many species are collected for the pet trade. Their generally passive demeanour and amazing beauty have contributed to turtle declines, as these traits are highly valued in pets.

The reproductive adults collected from the wild for the pet trade are essentially dead, as far as the population is concerned. Take one from its habitat and the potential for future babies is gone. No babies means, eventually, no population.

Turtles are bet-hedgers. Once an individual gets past the dicey egg and juvenile stages, it is essentially immortal — barring encounters with any human threats. Individual turtles can live for decades, some for more than a century.

But the persistence of the population relies on adult females. A female's reproductive lifespan is unencumbered by menopause; in fact, she gets better with age. Older females produce bigger and better clutches of eggs. But those eggs and juveniles are tasty morsels for numerous predators — most don't make it to adulthood, although they do contribute to food webs in an important way.

But that's OK. As long as the adult females survive, they can hedge their bets by producing clutches of eggs every year, banking on a payoff in a good year, so that each female replaces herself and the population continues on according to natural processes.

So that's why I can't tell you where I work. You see, you might be a turtle poacher. I trust no one, and I want my turtles to remain safe and sound in the wild.

Two of the species that my research group works on, Spotted Turtles (Clemmys guttata) and Wood Turtles (Glyptemys insculpta), are listed as endangered in Ontario, and are highly sought after by the pet trade.

One of the Wood Turtle populations in Ontario was hit by a suspected poaching event in the 1990s. I say "suspected" because no one has yet been able to prove it.

Here's the story: 70 per cent of the turtles disappeared in a blink of time, and we didn't find their bodies. The evidence suggested that their vanishing was not due to a mass predation event or a disease outbreak.

Word on the street is that some of those turtles are still alive in a basement in Ottawa, where they are being used to pump out offspring to be sold in the pet trade.
What remains of that Ontario population has been subjected to intensive and expensive management for 15 years in an attempt to bring it back from the brink of its projected extinction.

So how did the alleged poacher find out about the population? Good question, but hard to answer. Research began at the site in the late 1980s. The scientists thought their data reports would be safe in their desk drawers and bookshelves. But then came the internet and the digital age, and it became easier for the general public access to such documents.

The turtle trade has been compared to the gun and drug trades; it is that networked, clandestine and lucrative. Young, purportedly captive-bred Wood Turtles sell for hundreds of dollars a piece on the internet. Adults are hard to find for sale. They are often the wild-caught individuals and kept as breeders.
Within just a few years, two turtles can become dozens, and can net a poacher thousands of dollars in the legal trade. Captured female Wood Turtles may be kept by poachers to lay eggs for years. Jackie Litzgus, Author provided

I recently attended a scientific conference focused, not surprisingly, on turtles. Even in this situation, surrounded by like-minded scientists and conservation professionals, my students and I keep our study site information under our hats.

Good thing. As I listened to other conference presenters reveal too much, I learned that there was, in fact, a previously convicted turtle poacher attending the conference. My MO of secrecy was unfortunately justified. You just never know what lengths unscrupulous people will go to, so it's best not to make things easy for them, especially when turtles already face a host of other harder-to-control threats.

So, I could tell you where our research sites are located, but then, of course, I'd have to kill you.

Reptiles naturalisés, Museum de New York et hommage du Centre de Carnoules à Alain Dupré.

15 endangered turtles found smuggled in shoes: Taiwan Customs
The turtles were turned over to a wildlife center in northern Taiwan
By Matthew Lubin,Taiwan News, Staff Writer 3/13/17

TAIPEI (Taiwan News) -- The Forestry Bureau said on March 13 that the Customs Administration confiscated 15 endangered turtles on flight FX5142 from Malaysia being smuggled inside sports shoes in parcels.

All of the turtles were alive when discovered by customs when the parcels were checked, and the Forestry Bureau has sent them to a wildlife center in northern Taiwan. The wildlife center works with academic institutions and the Taipei Zoo to ensure proper care of its animals.
The wildlife center has options for the endangered turtles, including returning them to their native habitats. No specific plan has been made at this time.

The Forestry Bureau plans to prosecute the smugglers. Relevant laws indicate offenders are subject to six months to five years in prison and a fine of NT$300,000 (US$9,700) to NT$1.5 million.
Among the turtles confiscated were one angonoka tortoise (Astrochelys yniphora) and 14 painted terrapins, or saw-jawed turtle (Batagur borneoensis). The angonoka tortoise is native to Madagascar and is one of the rarest land tortoises in the world with an estimated wild population of just 600. The painted terrapin is native to rainforests of Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand and is a Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Appendix II critically endangered species, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Tortues instruments de musique chez les indiens d'Amérique du Nord au Museum de NY.

A peine découverte, la rare tortue de la Manning river en Australie est en danger p12

Rare Manning River Turtle endangered
by Julia Driscoll. 3/6/17 (Though about an Australian turtle was found in Gloucester Advocate 3/8/17)

Alarm bells are ringing for the future of a rare and endangered turtle that is found only in the upper and middle tributaries of the Manning River.

However, chances are if you ask residents of the Valley and its upper tributaries if they know of the turtle, the vast majority would say they had never heard of it.
There are seven species of freshwater turtles in NSW, and two of them are found nowhere else in the world.
One of these is the Manning River Turtle, also known as the Manning River Helmeted or Snapping Turtle, and Purvis' Short-necked Turtle.

The turtle is nearly identical to the Bellinger River Turtle, with its distinctive yellow markings and two barbells under the chin. Initially it was thought to be a close relative of the Bellinger turtle however more recent genetic testing has revealed that the two species are genetically distinct.
The Manning River Turtle is not to be confused with the prolific Eastern long-necked turtle, which is often seen crossing our roads.
"The Purvis' turtle is very distinct from other species of turtle and as such is a species of considerable conservation value," said Professor Arthur Georges PhD from the University of Canberra.

"Little is known of this species and its full distribution in the river".
Peter Schouten AM, who in 2016 became a Member of the Order of Australia for his services to wildlife illustration and the preservation and documentation of national history, says the Manning River Turtle is more than 55 million years old.
"It's much, much more ancient than the Bellinger turtle. It's actually a living fossil," Peter said.

The Bellinger River Turtle population was decimated in 2015 due to a disease and in a biosecurity bulletin issued by the NSW Department of Primary Industries in September 2015, it was stated that it was "important to heighten surveillance" in the Manning River Turtle.

Thankfully, to date the disease has not not been found in the Manning Rivers Turtle population. But concern is high within the zoological and ecological community that the species is under threat of extinction.
In September 2016, the NSW Scientific Committee established by the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 published a preliminary determination to list the Manning River Turtle as an endangered species.

The turtle previously had no conservation status, as it has been poorly studied and the exact size of the population is not known. The preliminary determination said a study in 1998 "noted that the Manning River Helmeted Turtle is more abundant than the Bellinger River Snapping Turtle … however more recently the abundance of Manning River Helmeted Turtles appears to have declined dramatically".

"It's much, much more ancient than the Bellinger turtle. It's actually a living fossil.
- Peter Schouten AM
This is supported by a study Dr Bruce Chessman (NSW Office of Environment and Heritage ecologist) in 2013 in which he reported that they only found a few turtles in three of six sites, and none of those were juveniles.
Predation by foxes, wild pigs, dogs, birds, goannas and fish, along with degradation of habitat, human interference and poaching are cited as reasons for the decline in the turtle population.

Another significant threat to the turtle species is interbreeding with and competition from the Macquarie Turtle.
To help protect the unique turtle, download TurtleSAT - an app for mobile phones and tablets which you can use to report turtle sightings.

Dr Ricky Spencer from the University of Sydney, and his team, developed TurtleSAT. Dr Spencer says he considers that the turtle may be critically endangered.
Information gathered from the app on the location and numbers of turtles and their nests will help researchers determine the population's health and distribution.
If you find a sick or injured total, report it to National Parks and Wildlife Service Manning Area on 6552 4097.

Je me méfie d'internet, il est possible que ce soit celle-là…

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On the Variability of Cuora trifasciata (Bell, 1825) by Torsten Blanck, William P. McCord, and Minh Le, 2006, Edition Chimaira, Hardcover, 152 pp., 61 color illustrations, several b & w illustrations, 1 map. $28.00

African Flapshell Turtles: Cyclanorbis and Cycloderma by Dieter Gramentz, Edition Chimaira, Hardcover, 280 pp., 70 color photos. $42.00

Medical Care of Turtles & Tortoises: Diagnosis, Surgery, Pathology, Parasitology by Jan Hnizdo and Nokola Pantchev (Eds.), 2011, Edition Chimaira, Hardcover, 559 pp., 600 illustrations. $119.00

European Pond Turtle: Emys orbicularis,by Manfred Rogner, 2009, Edition Chimaira, Frankfurt am Main, Germany, Hardcover, 255 pp., 150 illustrations. $31.00

Turtles of the World Vol 2: North America, Holger Vetter by Holger Vetter, 2004, Edition Chimaira, Frankfurt am Main, Germany, Hardcover, Bilingual (English and German), Terralog Series, 127 pp., 550 color photos. $33.00

Turtles of the World Vol 3: Central and South America by Holger Vetter, 2005, Edition Chimaira, Hardcover, Bilingual (English and German), Terralog Series, 128 pp., 560 color photos. $33.00

Turtles of the World Vol 4: East and South Asia by Holger Vetter, 2006, Edition Chimaira, Hardcover, Bilingual (English and German), Terralog Series, 144 pp., 600 color photos. $38.00

Ecology, Husbandry & Breeding: Spotted & Wood Turtles (Clemmys guttata & Glyptemys insculpta) by Andreas S. Henning, 2016, Edition Chimaira, Softcover, 94 pages, 102 color photos, 17 tables, 2 color distribution maps. $17.50

Leopard and African Spurred Tortoise: Stigmochelys pardalis and Centrochelys sulcata, by Holger Vetter, 2005, Edition Chimaira, Hardcover, 190 pp., 120 illustrations. $24.00

Hermann's Tortoise, Boettger's and Dalmatian Tortoises: Testudo boeggerti, hercegovinensis and hermanni by Holger Vetter, 2006, Edition Chimaira, Hardcover, 325 pp., 180 illustrations. $28.00

South American Tortoises: Chelonoidis carbonaria, C. denticulata and C. chilensis by Sabine Vinke, Holger Vetter, Thomas Vinke, and Suzanne Vetter, 2008, Edition Chimaira, Hardcover, 355 pp., 285 illustrations. $28.00

Black-Breasted Leaf Turtles: The Natural History, Captive Care, and Breeding of Geoemyda spengleri and Geoemyda japonica by Anthony Pierlioni, 2016, Living Art Publishing, Softcover, 114 pages, 97 color photographs, 2 maps, several tables and graphs. $17.50

Health Care & Rehabilitation of Turtles and Tortoises by Amanda Ebenhack, 2012, Living Art Publishing, Softcover, 393 pages, features current information on hydration, tube feeding, shell fractures and wound care, shell conditions, bacterial and viral diseases, respiratory illness, parasites, and guidelines for checking for the overall wellness of injured or recovering turtles and tortoises. $37.00

Rafetus, The Curve of Extinction by Peter C. H. Pritchard, 2012, Living Art Publishing, Hardcover, The Story of the Giant Softshell Turtle of the Yangtze and Red Rivers *ii* + 173 pp. $59.95

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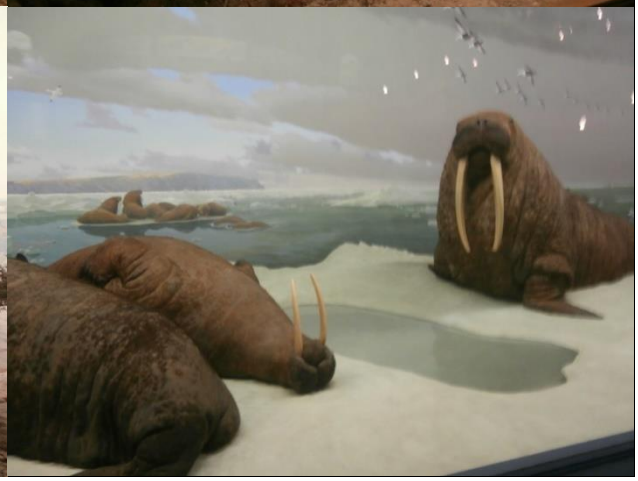

Diversity of North American map and sawback turtles (Testudines: Emydidae: Graptemys)

Zoologica Scripta
Article, Not yet published in print

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First published: May 18, 2017

Abstract

Map turtles of the genus Graptemys are native to North America, where a high degree of drainage endemism is believed to have shaped current diversity. With 14 species and one additional subspecies, Graptemys represents the most diverse genus in the family Emydidae. While some Graptemys species are characterized by pronounced morphological differences, previous phylogenetic analyses have failed yet to confirm significant levels of genetic divergence for many taxa. As a consequence, it has been debated whether Graptemys is taxonomically inflated or whether the low genetic divergence observed reflects recent radiations or ancient hybridization. In this study, we analysed three mtDNA blocks (3228 bp) as well as 12 nuclear loci (7844 bp) of 89 specimens covering all species and subspecies of Graptemys. Our analyses of the concatenated mtDNA sequences reveal that the widespread G. geographica constitutes the sister taxon of all other Graptemys species. These correspond to two clades, one comprised of all broad-headed Graptemys species and another clade containing the narrow-headed species. Most species of the broad-headed clade are reciprocally monophyletic, except for G. gibbonsi and G. pearlensis, which are not differentiated. By contrast, in the narrow-headed clade, many currently recognized species are not monophyletic and divergence is significantly less pronounced. Haplotype networks of phased nuclear loci show low genetic divergence among taxa and many shared haplotypes. Principal component analyses using coded phased nuclear DNA sequences revealed eight distinct clusters within Graptemys that partially conflict with the terminal mtDNA clades. This might be explained by male-mediated gene flow across drainage basins and female philopatry within drainage basins. Our results support that Graptemys is taxonomically oversplit and needs to be revised.

HUMANS HUNTED FRESHWATER TURTLES IN ISRAEL 60,000 YEARS AGO

By, Daniel K. Eidenbud, 7/25/17, The Jerusalem Post

A doctoral candidate made an unprecedented discovery during excavations in the Hula Valley.

Freshwater turtle remains from 60,000 years ago.. (photo credit:ASSAF UZAN)

A Hebrew University of Jerusalem doctoral candidate made an unprecedented discovery during excavations in the Hula Valley, proving humans hunted freshwater turtles in Israel 60,000 years ago.

The findings, published in the Journal of Archeological Science: Reports, were made by Rebecca Biton following years of excavations and analysis of the turtle remains from the Middle Paleolithic site, adjacent to the paleo-Lake Hula and swamps, located in the northern Jordan Valley.

Biton, who made international headlines three years ago after discovering the remains of an extinct frog species in the country, studies at the university's Institute of Archeology.

She's including the recent analysis as a chapter in her dissertation, which she is submitting next week.

According to the young researcher, the earliest evidence known of humans exploiting freshwater turtles for sustenance dated 1 million years ago in Africa, making her discovery a quantum leap in her field of study.

"I'm studying amphibians and reptiles from the Hula Valley and looking at various sites, the oldest of which is from 800,000 years ago," Biton said on Tuesday. "I was looking at the bones of the amphibians and reptiles to understand which species were in the Hula Valley 60,000 years ago, and if the humans back then exploited them somehow."

Biton noted that there are two known species of turtles indigenous to the area: the Mediterranean spur-thighed tortoise, which lives on land; and the Western Caspian turtle (freshwater turtle), which inhabits water.

However, while it's well-documented that tortoises were consumed by humans in Israel, there was never evidence until Biton discovered more than 300 bones from both species during digs at the site every summer between 2008 and 2014

"In Israel, at every archeological site you will find some evidence of the exploitation of tortoises, which do not have much meat, but were consumed," she said, adding that deer, gazelle and cows were also well-known food staples during the Middle Paleolithic Period.

"This is the first time that we found any clear evidence in Israel that freshwater turtles were also exploited for food," Biton said.

Among the bones unearthed in the three-to-four-meter digs near the water, Biton said 60 were identified as freshwater turtle remains.

"This is important because it shows that humans not only exploited animals on land, like the tortoise; but also from the Hula Lake and swamps," she said. "They not only hunted on land, but also in the water before learning to fish.

Biton said the remains illustrate that humans shattered the turtles' shell and carefully removed the meat using a flint knife.

"They took the turtle and smashed the shell and cooked whatever meat they could extract," she said.

Biton's adviser, Dr. Rivka Rabinovich, curator and manager of HU's paleontology collection, praised the PhD candidate, whose dissertation is titled: "An Archeo-zoological Study of Amphibians and Reptiles from Pleistocene Archeological Sites in the Hula Valley."

"Rebecca also made an important discovery that made a lot of noise three years ago when she identified the bones of the extinct Lagonia frog in the Hula Valley," said Rabinovich.

"She is going to be a great researcher," added Rabinovich. "I believe in her."

This is why 75 per cent of pet reptiles die within a year

New Indian Express, October 27, 2017

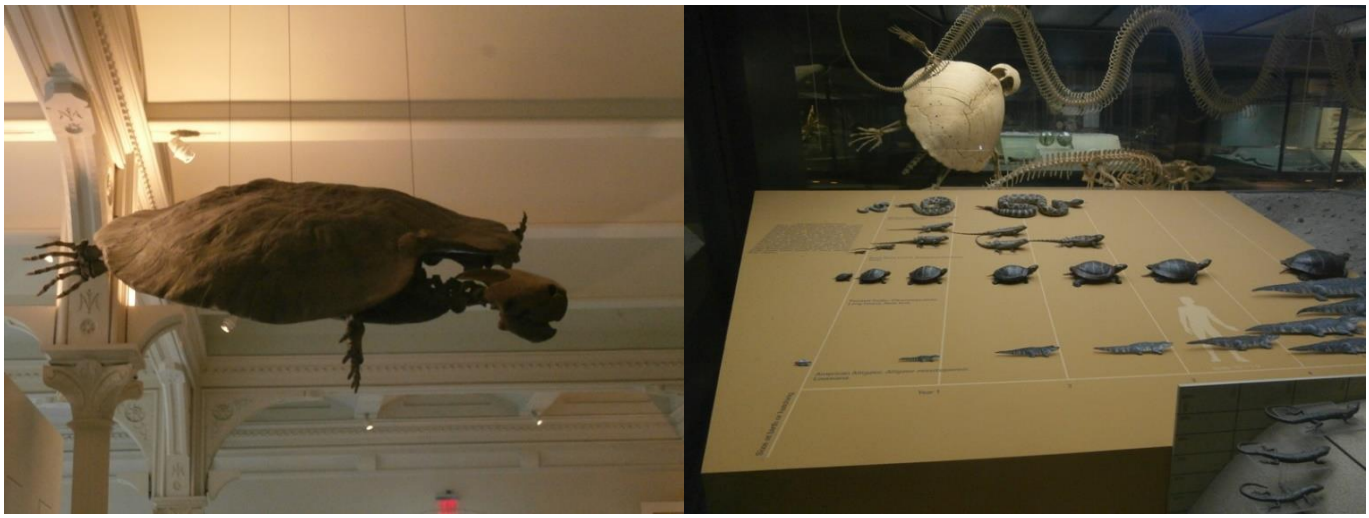
LONDON: Keeping reptiles and amphibians such as turtles, snakes and lizards as pets may be fatal for them, warns a study which found that 75 per cent of these animals die during their first year in the home.

Researchers from Ghent University in Belgium reviewed issues such as disease transmission to humans, welfare problems associated with poor care, and the ecological implications of trading wild animals.

The study, published in the journal Veterinary Record, found that 75 per cent of reptiles die during their first year in the home.
Researchers also found that inappropriate management and nutrition by inexperienced keepers remains a concern.

"Keeping reptiles and amphibians presents a disproportionate burden on public health or animal welfare compared to that posed by the keeping of other companion animals," said Frank Pasmans and Tom Hellebuyck from Ghent University.
"We therefore do not see any valid reasons to selectively restrict the keeping of reptiles and amphibians for these reasons," they said.

The team outlined several measures to mitigate health, welfare and conservation risks, such as introducing minimal care requirements, improving pet keeper education, enforcing quarantine and entry controls, closing legal loopholes to prevent trade in wild animals, and increasing access to specialist veterinary care.



Stupendemys as on display at the AMNH in New York; the skull is that of Caninemys.

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Remerciements :
Logo : Pierre DEOM, rédacteur et dessinateur de La Hulotte
Soutien : Soptom (France) - CRT (Espagne)
Informations : Allen Salzberg et Herdigest (U.S.A), Thierry Frétey,
Crédit photos : Allen Salzberg, Alain Veysset, Internet…