

GERHARD EGER, Metzingen

Gemeinsame Haltung von Testudo hermanni boettgeri und Testudo (hermanni) hercegovinensis – Erfahrungen eines Züchters über einen längeren Zeitraum und Auswertung der Nachzuchtdaten

Keeping of *Testudo hermanni boettgeri* and *Testudo (hermanni) hercegovinensis* – Long term experiences by a breeder and evaluation of the breeding statistics

Abstract

Due to the unknown origin a group Hermann's tortoises was kept together for 10 years. After the re-evaluation of *Testudo (hermanni) hercegovinensis* it became clear that the group contained individuals from both species *T. hermanni boettgeri* and *T. (h.) hercegovinensis*. Even before the exact classification of the individuals it was obvious that the offspring from certain females (all which belonged to *T. (h.) hercegovinensis* as determined later) showed a high rate of scute deformation when incubated at 33 °C. Incubating the eggs from these females at a lower temperature of 31,5 °C still resulted in a lower rate of hatching (54 %) and about 24 % of the embryos were found dead in the eggs and 34 % of the hatchlings showed deformed scutes. As a consequence of the latter observation the incubation temperature was further decreased. Due to the new information it became clear that bastards between the two species were most likely. After the separation of the two species the hatchlings of *Testudo (hermanni) hercegovinensis* showed a more species-specific patterns and only 2 out of 12 hatchlings showed one single inguinal scute.

Key words

Testudines: Testudinidae, *Testudo hermanni boettgeri*, *Testudo (hermanni) hercegovinensis*, hybrids, incubation

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