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Zur Haltung und Vermehrung der Spaltenschildkröte – *Malacochersus tornieri* (SIEBENROCK, 1903)

Maintenance and breeding of the pancake tortoise – *Malacochersus tornieri* (SIEBENROCK, 1903)

Abstract

Main subject of the article is the maintenance and breeding of the pancake tortoise. The keeping conditions are mainly based on the specialised lifestyle in rock crevices, but also on the author's personal experiences from a journey through Tanzania. The natural habitat is described and actual measurements of temperature and relative humidity in the biotope (so called "Kopjes") of the pancake tortoise are presented in relation to the standardized long-term average values. Furthermore, this tortoise's interesting behaviour is described. Changes of the seasons are presumed to be essential for breeding, which is realized through combined indoor and outdoor husbandry. Technical equipment is necessary in the outdoor terrarium in order to adapt the conditions to the corresponding climatic necessities. The generally low rates of development during incubation of *Malacochersus tornieri* are discussed. It is supposed that the reason related to specific behaviour (mating during feeding), as well as the incubation (necessary climatic variations).

Key words

Testudines: Testudinidae, *Malacochersus tornieri*, keeping and breeding, climate, artificial incubation

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