

RALPH HOEKSTRA, Huntington Beach, USA & HANS-JÜRGEN BIDMON, Düsseldorf

The secret tortoise: Geochelone platynota, die Burmesische Sternschildkröte – eine noch weit gehend unbekannte Landschildkröte

The secret tortoise: An almost unknown species, Geochelone platynota, the Burmese star tortoise

Abstract

We provide here an introduction to the currently much discussed situation of *G. platynota* in Myanmar and to the species natural habitats. The conditions for raising and breeding the species outdoors and indoors in southwest California are described, together with some specific references to the conditions used for maintaining this species in Europe. We pay special attention to food, to observed temperature requirements and those provided, as well as to differences in mating behaviour and in circadian patterns of activity observed between the so called „fan-shaped form“ and „narrow-striped form“. In addition we discuss how these observations, together with geographical information from their natural habitats, can be used to adapt adequate conditions for their captive management.

Key words

Testudines: Testudinidae, *Geochelone platynota*, „fan-shaped form“ and „narrow-striped form“, maintaining, food, breeding

Author

Ralph Hoekstra

E-Mail: RHOEKSTRA@aol.com

Hans-Jürgen Bidmon

E-Mail: hjb@hirn.uni-duesseldorf.de