



Chinese stripe-necked turtle

(*Mauremys sinensis*)

Originated in southern China, in northern and central Vietnam and Laos. First observed in the natural environment of Réunion Island in 2003.

Description

- Aquatic turtle reaching up to 24 to 25 cm in length, but 20 to 22 cm on average
- The head, legs and tail range from olive green to grey in colour, with narrow stripes (pale yellow to pale green)
- The iris is cream-coloured or pale yellow, with a dark slash
- In juvenile turtles, the carapace has three ridges that fade with age
- Sexual dimorphism where males have a concave plastron, a longer, thicker tail and the cloaca is located closer to the end of the tail

Ecology and reproduction in its original environment

- Habitats are located exclusively in freshwater environments, in swamps, canals with muddy bottoms, rivers with slow currents, marshes, lowland lakes and muddy ponds
- The animals are particularly found in water bodies with large amounts of vegetation
- Sexual maturity is achieved at the age of 5 to 7 years, at a size of approximately 15 to 18 cm
- Mating takes place primarily in the spring in its original environment
- From 3 to 10 elliptical eggs are laid over two months following mating, twice per year on average
- Incubation for 60 to 150 days
- The newborn measure between 30 and 35 mm in length

Documentation

- Sanchez M. et Probst J.-M., 2013. L'Émyde de Chine *Mauremys sinensis* dans la rivière des Galets (île de La Réunion) : compte-rendu des actions de lutte précoce. Rapport Nature Océan Indien. 22 pp + annexes.

<http://www.especiesinvasives.re/especies-invasives/les-portraits/article/emyde-de-chine>

- Bonin F., Devaux B. et Dupré A., 2006. Toutes les tortues du monde. Les encyclopédies du Naturaliste. Delachaux et Nieslé SA. Paris, France. 416 pp.
- Kraus F., 2009. Alien Reptiles and Amphibians. A Scientific Compendium and Analysis. Series: Invading Nature – Springer. Series in Invasion Ecology, Vol. 4. 564 pp.

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Classification

Order	<i>Testudines</i>
Family	<i>Geoemydidae</i>
Genus	<i>Mauremys</i>
Species	<i>M. sinensis</i> (Gray, 1834)

