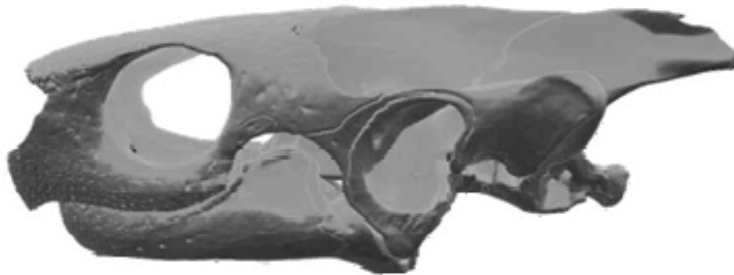
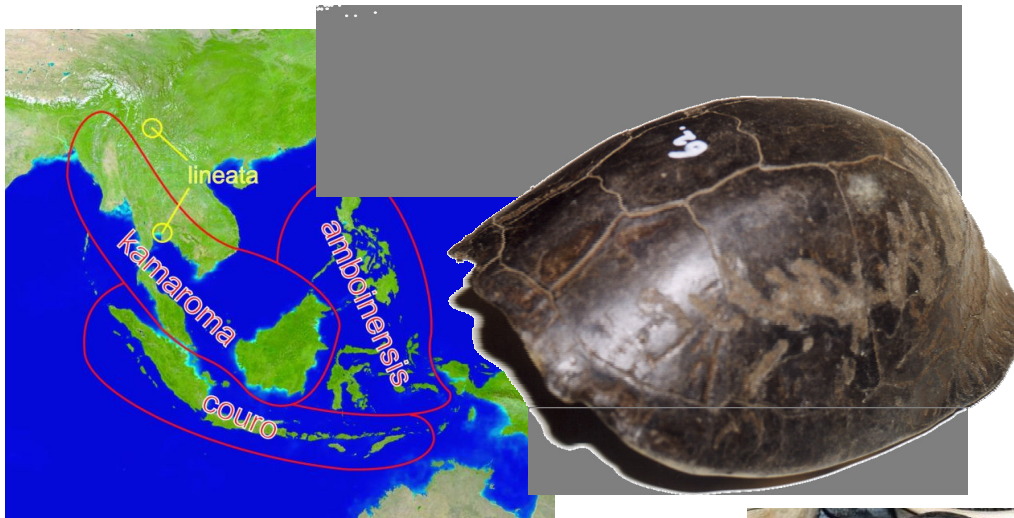


Husbandry guidelines

Cuora amboinensis Malayan box turtle



Map of distribution over Southeast Asia
No 62; carapace of old female with scratches
Skull (DigiMorph, University of Calgary)
Two young confiscated animals

October 2008

Merijn Kerlen, species coördinator

Synonyms

Malayan box turtle
Malaysian box turtle
Southeast Asian box turtle

East-Indian box turtle (*Cuora amboinensis amboinensis*)

Classification

Class: Reptilia
Order: Testudines
Suborder: Cryptodira
Superfamily: Testudinoidea
Family: Geoemydidae
Genus: *Cuora*

Protection/Status

CITES: Appendix II
IUCN: Vulnerable
ESF: Moderate protection

Distribution

The geographic distribution of *Cuora amboinensis* is the region south east Asia (Nicobar Islands, eastern India , Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines, Indonesia).

The animals prefer slow moving bodies of fresh water, such as ponds, marshes, swamps, and rice paddies. *Cuora amboinensis amboinensis* is more aquatic than *Cuora amboinensis kamaroma*.



Subspecies

Since 1997 four different subspecies of *Cuora amboinensis* have been described;

Cuora amboinensis amboinensis

Cuora amboinensis couro

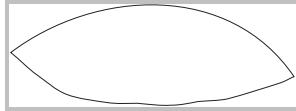
Cuora amboinensis kamaroma

Cuora amboinensis lineata

These subspecies can be separated by a combination of the shape differences of the carapace, the pattern of the plastron and the pattern of the stripes on the head. The easiest method is the combination of shapes together with the pattern of the plastron. For all subspecies the maximum sizes of the carapace are about; length = 22 cm (9 inch), height 11 cm (4,5 inch), width 15 cm (6 inch). Sizes depends on subspecie, age and feeding pattern. No differences are known for maximum length and width for the different subspecies, except height which depends on the subspecie. No difference on carapace size is known between females and males. Males have concave plastrons and longer thicker tails.

Cuora amboinensis amboinensis (Daudin, 1802)

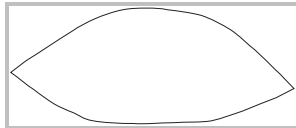
Flat carapace, good swimmer, also diving. Usually many dark areas on plastron for all scutes.



Very common in the 70's, 80's and 90's.

Cuora amboinensis couro (Schweigger, 1812)

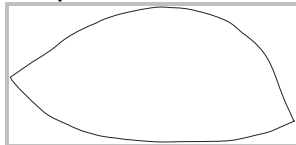
Intermediate characteristics between *amboinensis* and *kamaroma*.



Less common in 70's, 80's and 90's. Nowadays rare.

Cuora amboinensis kamaroma (Rummler & Fritz, 1991)

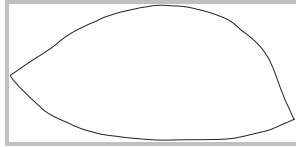
Domed carapace, bad swimmer (diving). Smaller or no dark areas on plastron for all or some scutes.



Most common since 2000.

Cuora amboinensis lineata (McCord & Philippen, 1998)

Same characteristics as kamaroma but a carapace with a light coloured middorsal stripe and often light coloured lateral stripes.



Only a few specimens are known.

Environment

The *Cuora amboinensis* is very strong and can handle low temperatures. The temperatures differ on the natural origin of the animals (location, attitude, etc.). However it's preferable to use an aerial temperatures between 18°C and 25°C (64°F - 77°F). The water temperature should never be lower as the aerial temperature. *Cuora amboinensis* prefer to bask below a spot light where the temperature can be 35°C (95°F). Additional uv light is only needed for herbivorous *Cuora*'s.

An aquarium of 200x60 cm (80x25 inch) can contain an absolute maximum of 6 adults, a maximum of 4 is preferred. Sometimes males should be separated from females because of the males aggression due to their urge for mating.

Depending on the subspecies and their swimming capacities 30% (*C.a.a.*) – 60% (*C.a.k.*) of the total surface should contain humid substrate. The animals also like a muddy area with a water level of a few centimeters. This muddy area is part of the surface mentioned above.

The substrate could contain spaghnum, peat moss, leafs, sand and small gravel. For egg laying the depth of the substrate should be at least 10 cm (4 inch).

The water area should be cleaned by an external filter with a pump, preferable a biological filter. Water depth should be at least 20 cm (8 inch). The bigger the water volume the better the (biological) filter will be.

On hot days (> 25°C (77°F) daytime and > 20°C (68°F) nighttime) *Cuora amboinensis* can be kept outside. Especially the natural sunshine, and uv, will be appreciated. Beware of the climbing capacities of the animals!

Diet

In nature *Cuora amboinensis* is almost herbivorous. In captivity they are omnivorous and really prefer all kinds of fruit (apple, pear, bananas), vegetables (dandelion, lettuce, tomatoe, endive, chicory), meat (cow, chicken, canned cat/dog food) and fish (dried, fresh, shrimps). If available also live food is accepted (snails, worms, crickets).

Additional supplements is recommended (commercial calcium/vitamin additive) depending on the kind of food offered. For canned cat/dog food extra supplements are not recommended because these are already added.

Feeding 2-3 times a week is fine. For canned food a maximum of twice a month is recommended because this food is rich on fat.

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