

21. NEW LOCALITY RECORD FOR THE INDIAN PEACOCK
SOFTSHELL TURTLE *TRIONYX HURUM*

Three species of softshell turtles (Family: Trionychidae) in the genus *Trionyx* are known to occur in India. These include the Indian softshell turtle *Trionyx gangeticus* Cuvier from the rivers and reservoirs of northern India and the Leith's softshell turtle *Trionyx leithii* Gray from the southern Indian rivers and reservoirs. The distribution of the third species, the Indian peacock softshell turtle *Trionyx hurum* Gray, is generally given as the lower reaches of the Brahmaputra and Ganga (Pritchard 1979, Smith 1931). Mertens (1969), also quoted by Khan and Mirza (1976), had recorded the species from lower Sind, in Pakistan. Moll and Vijaya (1986) reported it from the West Champaran district of northwestern Bihar, near the Nepal-Uttar Pradesh border. One specimen of *T. hurum* was collected by me from Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh and the material deposited at the National Zoological Collection, Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta

Trionyx hurum Gray

Material: 1 ex., collected from Lower Lake,

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Measurements & Weight: Median straight carapace length (bony shell & soft disc.) 138 mm, carapace width 112 mm, plastron length 106 mm, weight 234 gms.

Description: Carapace olive-green with four well defined ocelli. Head and forelimbs grey-black with large yellow patches; one yellow spot behind each eye, one across snout and one on top of each corner of the upper jaw. Numerous small yellow spots on the forehead and on the dorsal surface of the forelimbs, the undersurface of which has yellow patches. Hindlimbs grey with cream spots. Plastron cream. The present record suggests that *Trionyx hurum* may be found in other isolated north Indian freshwaters.

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