

Gujarat, where big rivers flow throughout the year. Only *L. punctata* is found all over Gujarat.

We have recorded for the first time new localities of *Kachuga tecta* and *K.t. circumdata* from the rivers Sabarmati, Mahi and Tapi. The freshwater turtles *Trionyx leithii*, *T. hurum* and *Chitra indica* are mentioned in lists of reptiles by Acharya (1949) and Kapadia (1951) from the temple tank of Dakor village, Kheda district, and rivers of south Gujarat, but during the survey we have not found any of these species from Gujarat state. *T. leithii* is known to be restricted to the rivers and reservoirs of peninsular

India, but the other species may well occur.

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31. NOTES ON THE LAND TORTOISES OF BANGLADESH

The elongated tortoise *Indotestudo elongata* and Asian giant tortoise *Manouria emys* are the two land tortoise species reliably reported to occur in the Republic of Bangladesh. The sight record of the Indian star tortoise *Geochelone elegans* from Dhaka district, cited by Jayakar and Spurway (1966), is curious and has not been confirmed either by collection or subsequent sightings. In fact, the known natural distribution of the aforementioned species has been shown by Frazier (1987 and in prep.) to encompass eastern Pakistan and northwestern India, as well as southern peninsular India and Sri Lanka, in two well marked clusters. The present note is based on data on the identity and distribution of the two land tortoise species, obtained during a survey of the chelonians of Bangladesh.

The elongated tortoise has been reported from Pablakhali in the Chittagong Hill Tracts of southeastern Bangladesh by Khan (1987). During fieldwork at the West Bhanugach Reserve Forest, Moulvi Bazar (formerly a part of Sylhet District), in north eastern Bangladesh, a slightly damaged carapace (field number ID/BGD 01; now in the collection of the Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta) was obtained on 11 January 1989, from a Khasia village at

Lawachara. The animal was reportedly locally caught and consumed by the villagers about a month previously. Locally, the species is called 'hunro' by the Khasia tribesmen. **Measurements:** SCL 23.8 cm, CCL 27.7 cm, SCW 15.9 cm, CCW 23.7 cm.

West Bhanugach Reserve Forest, where the elongated tortoise is reportedly uncommon, comprises 27 sq.km of degraded forests, scrublands and plantations.

Another example of this species, a male, was seen in mid January 1989, at a menagerie in Srimangal town in the same district, which was reportedly caught at Patrok-hola, in a natural forest within a tea estate. The animal had bright pink patches on the head, a condition found seasonally in male tortoises of the genus *Indotestudo* and thought to play a role in sex- and species-recognition during the breeding season (Auffenberg 1964). These records indicate the existence of the elongated tortoise in northeastern Bangladesh. The nearest locality to this from where the species has been recorded is Tura, in the West Garo Hills, Meghalaya, India, mentioned in a review of nematodes by Baylis and Daubney (1922 : 304).

The other land tortoise species of Bangladesh, the Asian giant tortoise *Manouria emys* is as poorly docu-