

AN ILLUSTRATED KEY TO THE TURTLES OF INSULAR SOUTH-EAST ASIA

Indraneil Das

Department of Biology, Universiti Brunei Darussalam, Bandar Seri Begawan 2028, Brunei Darussalam
Present address: Centre for Herpetology, Madras Crocodile Bank Trust, Post Bag 4, Mamallapuram 603 104, India
(with 10 text-figures)

ABSTRACT. - An illustrated dichotomous key to the 20 species of Testudines that are known from Borneo, Sumatra, Java, Sulawesi, Maluku and the Philippines is provided. The fauna includes members of the families Dermochelyidae (one species), Cheloniidae (three species), Testudinidae (two species), Bataguridae (11 species, including one undescribed) and Trionychidae (three species).

KEYWORDS. - Testudines, illustrated key, Sumatra, Java, Borneo, Sulawesi, Maluku, Philippines.

INTRODUCTION

There have been few studies on the non-marine turtles of insular south-east Asia and the monograph of de Rooij (1915) continues to be the last regional work on the group. The checklist of Iverson (1992) indicates that as many as 18 species of turtles are reliably recorded from the islands, with the record of *Geoemyda spengleri* requiring verification. A checklist and an illustrated dichotomous key to aid identification of field and museum specimens of turtles was prepared, based on data gathered during field work in Brunei Darussalam and Sarawak, coupled with an examination of specimens at the Brunei Museum, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam; the Sarawak Museum, Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia; Museum Zoologicum Bogoricum, Bogor, Indonesia; Musée National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris; Philippines National Museum, Manila; Natural History Museum, London; Oxford University (Zoological Museum), Oxford; Natur-Museum und Forschung-Institut Senckenberg, Frankfurt/Main; Zoologisches Forschungsinstitut und Museum Alexander Koenig, Bonn; Naturhistorisches Museum, Vienna; the Natural History Museum, London; and the Zoological Reference Collection, National University of Singapore, Singapore.

The term 'insular south-east Asia' here refers to the Sundaic islands of Borneo, Sumatra, Java, Sulawesi (formerly Celebes), Maluku (formerly Moluccas) and smaller associated islands, as well

as the islands of the Philippines. The political units covered include Indonesia, Malaysia (Sarawak and Sabah), Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of the Philippines. The known Testudine fauna of the region belongs exclusively to the Infraorder Cryptodira, as opposed to most of the non-marine Testudines from the islands lying on the Sahul Shelf (New Guinea, Australia and the associated islands) which are members of the Infraorder Pleurodira. This work deals with the turtle fauna of the archipelago west of Webber's Line. The zoogeography of the turtles of the region has been reviewed by Lovich (1994), who predicted the discovery of hitherto undescribed species.

Distributional data are provided for the non-marine species and refer only to distribution in the archipelago, extralimital distribution being omitted. Turtle nomenclature follows Iverson (1992). Additional bibliographic material can be found in David (1994). Nomenclature of shell components are as in Fig. 1. Maximum straight carapace length recorded is provided for each species in the key.

CHECKLIST OF THE TURTLES OF INSULAR SOUTH-EAST ASIA

DERMOCHELYIDAE

1. *Dermochelys coriacea* (Vandelli, 1761).
Leatherback sea turtle

CHELONIIDAE

2. *Chelonia mydas* (Linnaeus, 1758), Green turtle