

River terrapin

Desc:

The northern river terrapin is omnivorous, taking waterside plants and small animals such as clams.^[7] The species prefers freshwater habitats and moves to brackish river mouths or estuaries in the breeding season (December–March), returning after laying their eggs. Individuals have been known to undertake long seasonal migrations of 50 to 60 miles to the sand banks where they were hatched. Females usually lay three clutches of 10–34 eggs each.

Info:

One of Asia's largest freshwater and brackish turtles. Carapace moderately depressed, with a vertebral keel in the young, which keel disappears in the adult; nuchal broader than long; first vertebral as broad in front as behind, or a little broader; vertebrals 2 to 4 subequal, much broader than long in the young, nearly as long as broad and as broad as the costals in the adult, the postero-lateral border of the third vertebral strongly concave. Plastron large, strongly angulate laterally in the young, convex in the adult, truncate anteriorly, angularly notched posteriorly; the width of the bridge exceeds the length of the posterior lobe; the longest median suture is that between the abdominals, the shortest that between the gulars, the latter never more than half that between the humerals; inguinal large, axillary smaller. Head rather small; snout pointed, produced, directed upwards; jaws with denticulated edge, upper feebly notched mesially; the width of the lower jaw at the symphysis nearly equals the diameter of the orbit. Limbs with transversely enlarged, band-like scales.

Char:

- The upper surface of the carapace and the soft parts are generally olive-brown, while the plastron is yellowish.
- Head and neck are brown with reddish bases.
- Males in breeding coloration have a black head and neck with a crimson or orange dorsal surface and red or orange forelegs.
- The colour of the pupils also changes during this period, to brown in females and yellow-white in males.

Funfact:, the color of the pupils of a female brown whereas the pupils in the males become yellowish-white