

Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

ERNST, CARL H. 1980. *Rhinoclemmys funerea*.

***Rhinoclemmys funerea* (Cope)
Black terrapin**

Chelopus funereus Cope, 1875:154. Type-locality, "Limon," Port Limon, Costa Rica. Syntypes, four juveniles, U.S. Nat. Mus. 45000, 45001, 46134, 46135, collected by W. M. Gabb, no date (examined by author).

Emys funerea: Günther, 1885:7.

Geoemyda funerea: Dunn, 1930:31.

Geoemyda costaricensis Kanberg, 1930:162. Type-locality, "Costa Rica." Holotype, "Das Zoologische Museum in Berlin hat kürzlich Dank der rührigen Tätigkeit der Herrn Dr. Ernst Ahl eine Schildkröte erworben, die weder in der synopsis von Prof. F. Siebenrock über die rezenten Schildkröten, noch in irgendeiner späteren Schildkrötenbeschreibung aufgeführt oder beschrieben ist . . . Die neue Schildkrötenart, das vorliegende Stück dient im Zoologischen Museum als Type, gehört zur Gattung *Geoemyda* Gray, . . ." Assumed to be in the Zoological Museum of Berlin, but Dr. Gunther Peters (in litt., 1977) states that it was never deposited there.

Geoemyda funerea: Campbell and Howell, 1965:132. *Lapsus calami* for *Geoemyda*.

Rhinoclemmys funerea: McDowell, 1964:267.

Geoemydia funeria: Fairchild, Kohls and Tipton, 1966:201. *Lapsus calami*.

Rhinoclemmys funerea: Meyer and Wilson, 1973:6. First use of combination.

Callopsis funerea: Smith, Smith and Sawin, 1976:216.

• CONTENT. *Rhinoclemmys funerea* is a monotypic species.

• DEFINITION. Adults grow to 325 mm in carapace length, with no size dimorphism between sexes. The high, somewhat domed, carapace of adults is smooth to rugose (owing to retention of scutes), middorsally keeled, posteriorly serrated, and usually widest and highest just behind the middle. The carapace is dark brown to black in adults, whereas pleurals of juveniles are tinged with yellow. The unhinged plastron is well developed, upturned anteriorly, and notched posteriorly; it is black with yellow seam borders. The head is moderate sized with a slightly projecting

snout and a notched upper jaw. A yellow stripe extends along the entire side of the head above the tympanum. Two other yellow stripes run from the orbit and corner of the mouth to the tympanum. There are large black spots on the lower jaw and chin. The feet are strongly webbed. The skin is black with yellow vermiculations. Males have concave plastrons and longer tails with the vent beyond the carapacial margin; females have flat plastrons and shorter tails with the vent beneath the carapace.

• DESCRIPTIONS. General descriptions are given by Wettstein (1934), Pritchard (1967), and Ernst (1978). The choanal structure is described by Parsons (1960, 1968, 1970), the rostral pores and mental glands by Winokur and Legler (1974, 1975), and the karyotype by Killebrew (1977).

• ILLUSTRATIONS. A color photograph of an adult is in Pritchard (1967), black and white drawings of an adult and scute patterns of carapace and plastron in Wermuth and Mertens (1961). Parsons (1970) presents a drawing of the choanal structure, and Winokur and Legler (1974) give black and white photographs of sections through rostral pores. The karyotype is illustrated in Killebrew (1977).

• DISTRIBUTION. *Rhinoclemmys funerea* occurs from the Rio Coco forming the Honduran-Nicaraguan border (at Crassa, 60 km W. Waspam) southward through eastern Nicaragua, Costa Rica and eastern Panama to the Panama Canal.

• FOSSIL RECORD. None.

• PERTINENT LITERATURE. The best general account is by Moll and Legler (1971). Additional important references are listed by topic. Reproduction: Moll and Legler (1971), Iverson (1975), Ewert (1979). Rostral pores and mental glands: Winokur and Legler (1974, 1975). Choanal structure: Parsons (1960, 1968, 1970). Taxonomy: McDowell (1964), Ernst (1978). Parasites: Fairchild et al. (1966), Ernst and Ernst (1977).

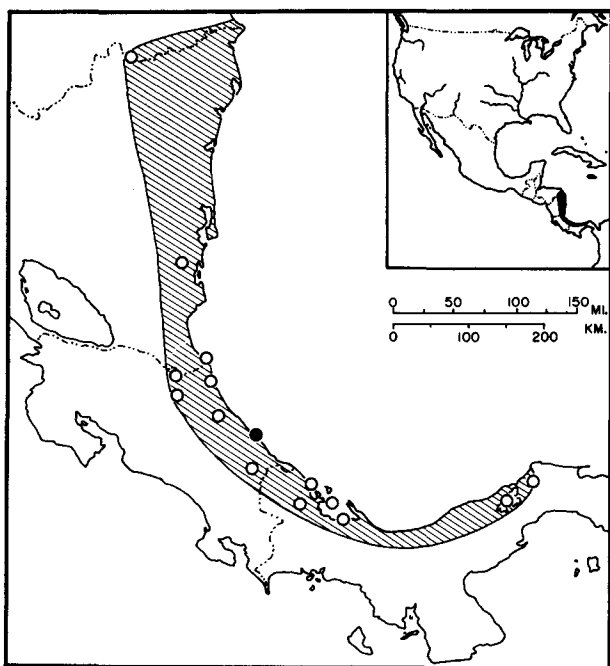
• ETYMOLOGY. The specific name *funerea* is derived from the Latin *funeris* meaning of a funeral and refers to the black coloration of the shell and limbs.

COMMENT

Although it is abundant in some rivers, little is known of the ecology and behavior of this large turtle; field studies are needed.

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MAP. The solid circle marks the type-locality; open circles indicate other selected localities.

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