

## Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

Seidel, M.E. 2002. *Trachemys taylori*.

***Trachemys taylori* (Legler)**  
Cuatrociengas Slider

*Pseudemys scripta taylori* Legler 1960:75. Type locality, "16 km. S. Cuatro Ciénegas, Coahuila, México." Holotype, University of Kansas Museum of Natural History (KU) 46952, alcoholic adult female collected 6 September 1958 by J.M. Legler (examined by author).

*Chrysemys scripta taylori*: Smith and Taylor 1966:12.  
*Chrysemys gaigeae taylori*: Weaver and Rose 1967:70.  
*Chrysemys taylori*: Weaver and Rose 1967:71.  
*Chrysemys (Trachemys) scripta taylori*: Fritz 1981:25.  
*Trachemys scripta taylori*: Iverson 1985:5.  
*Trachemys taylori*: Seidel 2002:289.

• **CONTENT.** *Trachemys taylori* is monotypic.

• **DEFINITION.** *Trachemys taylori* is a relatively small slider, with adult carapace length to 21.8 cm in females and 17.9 cm in males. The carapace is oval in dorsal view with longitudinal striations and a weak medial keel in adults. The cervical scute is relatively small and its ventral underlap is short. The pectoral scutes of the plastron are longer than the gulars and the femoral edges are often reflected ventrally. The cutting edge of the lower jaw is coarsely serrate. Males have a longer and thicker tail than females, but the foreclaws are not noticeably elongate.

Ground color of the carapace is olive, upper surfaces of marginal scutes have black ovals or circles and other scutes on the carapace have pale yellow or orange reticular lines (indistinct ocelli) enclosing scattered black ovals. Plastral ground color is pale yellow with interconnecting black marks that form a partially symmetrical but irregular configuration. The head and limbs have wavy yellow stripes on a dark olive ground color. A broad red supratemporal line or oval extends posteriorly from orbit of the eye to the end of the cranium (but not down the neck), and a yellow Y-shaped mark occurs on the gular surface.

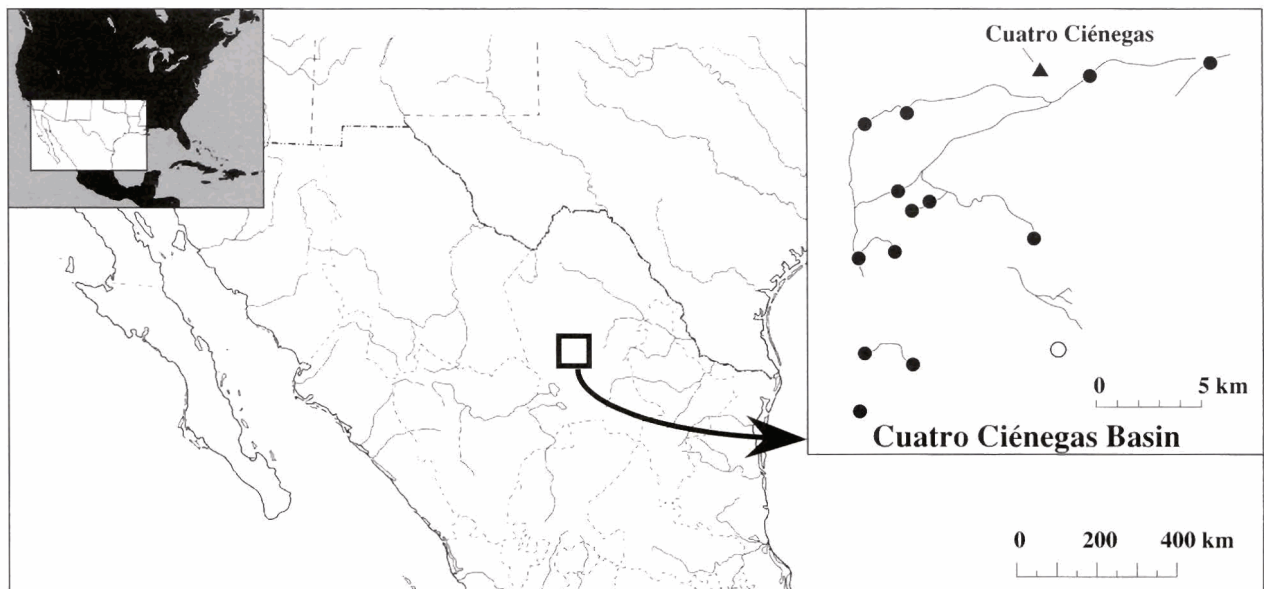


FIGURE. Young male *Trachemys taylori* from Laguna El Mojarral.

In older individuals of both sexes, melanism is common.

• **DESCRIPTIONS.** General descriptions are in Bonin et al. (1996), Casas Andreu (1967), Ernst (1990), Ernst and Barbour (1989), Legler (1960, 1963, 1990), Obst (1985), Pritchard (1967, 1979), Rogner (1995), and Smith and Smith (1980). Ward (1980) described the mandible.

• **ILLUSTRATIONS.** A color photograph appears in Fritz (1981); black and white photographs are in Davis and Jackson (1973), Legler (1960), and Smith and Smith (1980); and black and white illustrations of head and neck markings appear in Fritz (1981), Obst (1985), Legler (1960), and Smith and Smith (1980). The foreleg pattern was illustrated by Legler (1960). Precopulatory biting behavior was illustrated in Davis and Jackson (1973).



MAP. The rectangle indicates the location of the Cuatro Ciénegas Basin, the triangle indicates the location of the town of Cuatro Ciénegas, the large circle marks the type locality, and dots mark known localities for *Trachemys taylori*.

• **DISTRIBUTION.** *Trachemys taylori* occurs only in aquatic habitats of the Cuatro Ciénegas Basin, Coahuila, México. Distributional data are found in Flores-Villela et al. (1991), Legler (1960), and Smith and Smith (1980).

• **FOSSIL RECORD.** None.

• **PERTINENT LITERATURE.** A comprehensive review of the species is in Smith and Smith (1980). Other important references address **courtship behavior** (Bonin et al. 1996; Davis and Jackson 1973; Fritz 1990a,b,c), **natural history** (Legler 1960), **habitat alteration** (Brown 1974, Mitchell and Klemens 2000), **taxonomy and systematics** (David 1994; Fritz 1981, 1990a,b,c; Legler 1960, 1963, 1990; Seidel 2002; Starkey 1997; Ward 1980; Weaver and Rose 1967), **melanism** (Lovich et al. 1990), **biogeography** (Legler 1990, Morafka 1977), **respiratory metabolism** (Seidel 1977), **absence of rostral pores** (Winokur and Legler 1974), **mitochondrial DNA** (Starkey 1997), **size dimorphism** (Berry and Shine 1980), **common names** (Iverson 1985, Liner 1994), and **threats to survival** (Mitchell and Klemens 2000).

• **REMARKS.** Legler (1963) described several intergrade specimens outside of the Cuatro Ciénegas Basin which illustrate morphological characteristics intermediate between *Trachemys taylori* and *T. scripta elegans*. These individuals can be considered putative hybrids resulting from intermittent gene exchange. Contact between the two species has become possible due to irrigation canals that connect internal basin drainages to the Río Nadadores (Brown 1974), a tributary of the Río Grande System inhabited by *T. s. elegans*.

• **ETYMOLOGY.** The name *taylori* is a patronym honoring the late Edward H. Taylor, a pioneer of Mexican herpetology and professor at the University of Kansas.

#### LITERATURE CITED

- Berry, J.S. and R. Shine. 1980. Sexual size dimorphism and sexual selection in turtles (order Testudines). *Oecologia* 44:185–191.
- Bonin, F., B. Devaux, and A. Dupré. 1996. Toutes les tortues du Monde. Delachaux en Niestlé, Lausanne, Switzerland.
- Brown, W.S. 1974. Ecology of the aquatic box turtle, *Terrapene coahuila* (Chelonia, Emydidae) in Northern Mexico. *Bull. Florida State Mus. Biol. Sci.* 19:1–67.
- Casas Andreu, G. 1967. Contribución al conocimiento de las Tortugas Dulceacuicolas de México. Univ. Nac. Autón. Mexico Fac. Ciencias, Dept. Biol. México, D.F.
- David, P. 1994. Liste des reptiles actuels du Monde. I. Chelonii. *Dumerilia* 1:7–127.
- Davis, J.D. and C.G. Jackson, Jr. 1973. Notes on the courtship of a captive male *Chrysemys scripta taylori*. *Herpetologica* 29:62–64.
- Ernst, C.H. 1990. Systematics, taxonomy, variation, and geographic distribution of the slider turtle, p. 57–67. *In* J.W. Gibbons (ed.), *Life History and Ecology of the Slider Turtle*. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C.
- and R.W. Barbour. 1989. *Turtles of the World*. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C.
- Flores-Villela, O.A., E.H. García, and J.N. Montes de Oca. 1991. Catálogo de anfibios y reptiles del Museo de Zoología. Facultad de Ciencias Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. Univ. Nac. Aut. México, México, D.F.
- Fritz, U. 1981. Zwei interessante mexikanische Schmuckschildkröten der Gattung *Chrysemys* (Gray, 1844). *Herpetofauna* 14:25–32.
- . 1990a. Balzverhalten und Systematik in der Subtribus Nectemidina 1. Die Gattung *Trachemys* besonders *Trachemys scripta callirostris* (Gray 1855). *Salamandra* 26:221–245.
- . 1990b. Haltung und Nachzucht der Jamaika-Schmuckschildkröte *Trachemys terrapen* (Lacépède, 1788) und Bemerkungen zur Fortpflanzungsstrategie von neotropischen Schmuckschildkröten der Gattung *Trachemys*. *Salamandra* 26:1–18.
- . 1990c. Courtship behavior and systematics in the subtribe Nectemidina 1. The genus *Trachemys*, especially *Trachemys scripta callirostris* (Gray, 1855). *Bull. Chicago Herpetol. Soc.* 33:225–236.
- Iverson, J. 1985. Checklist of the turtles of the world with English common names. *SSAR Herpetol. Circ.* (14):1–14.
- Legler, J.M. 1960. A new subspecies of slider turtle (*Pseudemys scripta*) from Coahuila, México. *Univ. Kansas Publ. Mus. Natur. Hist.* 13:73–84.
- . 1963. Further evidence for intergradation of two Mexican sliders (*Pseudemys scripta*). *Herpetologica* 19:142–143.
- . 1990. The genus *Pseudemys* in Mesoamerica: taxonomy, distribution, and origins, p. 82–105. *In* J.W. Gibbons (ed.), *Life History and Ecology of the Slider Turtle*. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C.
- Liner, E.E. 1994. Scientific and common names for the amphibians and reptiles of Mexico in English and Spanish. *SSAR Herpetol. Circ.* (23):1–113.
- Lovich, J.E., C.J. McCoy, and W.R. Garstka. 1990. The development and significance of melanism in the slider turtle, p. 233–253. *In* J.W. Gibbons (ed.), *Life History and Ecology of the Slider Turtle*. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C.
- Mitchell, J.C. and M.W. Klemens. 2000. Primary and secondary effects of habitat alteration, p. 5–32. *In* M.W. Klemens (ed.) *Turtle Conservation*. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C.
- Morafka, D.J. 1977. A biogeographical analysis of the Chihuahuan desert through its herpetofauna. *Biogeographica* 9:1–313.
- Obst, F.J. 1985. Schmuckschildkröten. Die Gattung *Chrysemys*. A. Ziemsen Verlag, Wittenberg Lutherstadt.
- Pritchard, P.C.H. 1967. *Living Turtles of the World*. T.F.H. Publ., Inc., Jersey City, New Jersey.
- . 1979. *Encyclopedia of Turtles*. T.F.H. Publ., Inc., Neptune, New Jersey.
- Rogner, M. 1995. *Schildkröten 1*. Heidi Rogner-Verlag, Hürtgenwald, Germany.
- Seidel, M.E. 1977. Respiratory metabolism of temperate and tropical American turtles (genus *Chrysemys*). *Comp. Biochem. Physiol.* 57A:297–298.
- . 2002. Taxonomic observations on extant species and subspecies of slider turtles, genus *Trachemys*. *J. Herpetol.* 36:285–292.
- Smith, H.M. and R.B. Smith. 1980. *Synopsis of the Herpetofauna of Mexico*. Vol. VI. Guide to Mexican Turtles. Bibliographic Addendum III. John Johnson, North Bennington, Vermont.
- and E.H. Taylor. 1966. *Herpetology of Mexico*. Annotated checklists and keys to the amphibians and reptiles. A reprint of *Bulletins* 187, 194 and 199 of the U.S. National Museum with a list of subsequent taxonomic innovations. Eric Lundberg, Ashton, Maryland.
- Starkey, D.E. 1997. *Molecular systematics and biogeography of the New World turtle genera Trachemys and Kinosternon*. Ph.D. Dissertation, Texas A&M University, College Station.
- Ward, J.P. 1980. Comparative cranial morphology of the freshwater turtle subfamily Emydinae: an analysis of the feeding mechanisms and the systematics. Ph.D. Dissertation, North Carolina State University, Raleigh.
- Weaver, W.G., Jr. and F.L. Rose. 1967. Systematics, fossil history and evolution of the genus *Chrysemys*. *Tulane Stud. Zool.* 14:63–73.
- Winokur, R.M. and J.M. Legler. 1974. Rostral pores in turtles. *J. Morphol.* 143:107–120.

---

**MICHAEL E. SEIDEL**, Department of Biology, University of North Florida, Jacksonville, Florida 3224, and Department of Biological Sciences, Marshall University, Huntington, West Virginia 25755.

Primary editor for this account, Carl H. Ernst.

---

Published 30 June 2002 and Copyright © 2002 by the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles.

---