



INTRODUCED SPECIES

The Indian Star Tortoise, *Geochelone elegans* (Schoepff 1795) (Testudinidae), a New Introduced Species in Florida

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Photographs by the senior author.

The Indian Star Tortoise, *Geochelone elegans* (Schoepff 1795), is indigenous to southwestern India and Sri Lanka (Gaur et al. 2005). In its native range this species occupies agricultural fields, scrubland, and forests dominated by *Acacia arabica* (Vyas and Parasharya 1999).

At 1310 h on 6 August 2017, MAS collected an adult *G. elegans* (UF-Herpetology 180361) on a residential driveway beneath a vehicle in Kendall, Miami-Dade County (25.684284°N, -80.373276°W, Datum WGS84; Fig. 1). This species is common in the pet trade (Vyas and Parasharya 1999). This individual likely was a released or escaped pet and represents a stage-2 introduction following Colautti and MacIsaac (2004). UF-Herpetology 180361 represents the first *G. elegans* introduced to Florida and adds to the growing number of introduced species of herpetofauna documented in the state, now totaling over 180 (Krysko et al. 2016).

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Literature Cited

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Fig. 1. Lateral and ventral views of an adult Indian Star Tortoise, *Geochelone elegans* (UF-Herpetology 180361), from Kendall, Miami-Dade County, Florida.