

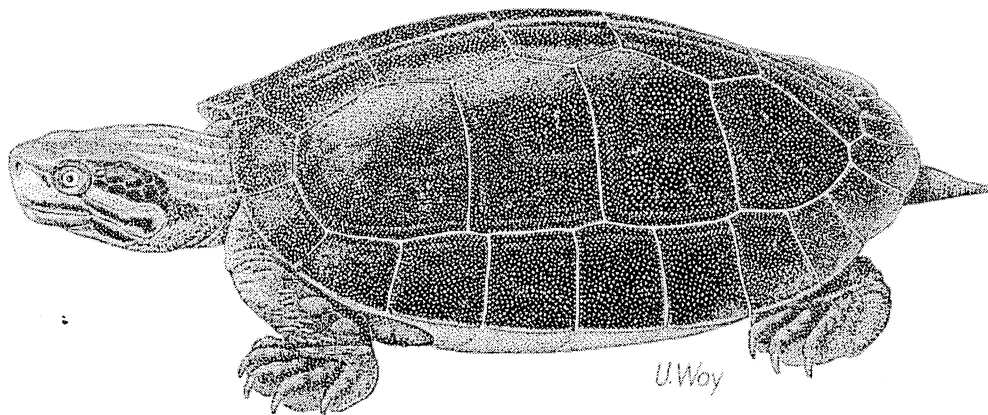


Kachuga kachuga

(Gray, 1831)

Common names:	engl.:	Red-crowned roof(ed) turtle, Bengal roof turtle, Painted roof turtle, Sail terrapin
	esp.:	Tortuga de techo, Galapagos cubiertos
	fr.:	Kachuga à front rouge
	de.:	Kachuga-Dachschildkröte, Bengalische Dachschildkröte
	Beng.:	Adi kori katha
	Hindi:	Lal tilakwala kachuga
	Nepal:	Dodare, Dodari

Scientific synonyms:	<i>Emys kachuga</i> Gray, 1831
	<i>Emys lineata</i> Gray, 1831
	<i>Batagur ellioti</i> Gray, 1862
	<i>Kachuga fusca</i> Gray, 1870
	<i>Kachuga lineate</i> , Boulenger, 1889



Characteristics:	A large river turtle with an elliptical moderately high-domed carapace. Males show a bright colouration in breeding season.
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Adult:

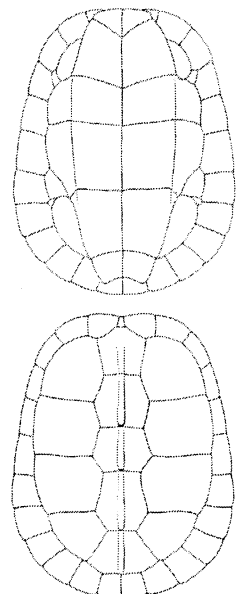
Carapace:	The elliptical carapace is moderately raised and has a vertebral keel which is most prominent on (and in old specimens reduced to) the posterior projection of the 2 nd and 3 rd vertebral scute. Posterior margin is smooth or only slightly indented. Females measure up to 56 cm, males up to 29 cm.
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Plastron:	Long and narrow, anteriorly truncated and usually but not always posteriorly notched. The bridge is broad. The humero-pectoral seam joins the plastral mid-seam at an obtuse angle.
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Nuchal shield:	Small
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Supracaudal shield:	Divided
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Colour:	There is a distinct sexual dichromatism in this species: the carapace of males is olive or brown, whereas females have dark brown or drab colouration. The plastron and bridge are uniform yellow in both sexes. The head of males is red dorsally and bluish grey to black on the sides with two broad yellow bands. Mandibles and neck are brown to yellowish and seven red longitudinal stripes run along the neck. The throat shows a pair of red or yellow spots. The colouration in males is especially splendid in breeding season and fades in the other seasons. Females show no such head pattern, but have an uniform olive, blue or dark brown to black coloured head with yellow or silvery mandibles. Limbs and tail are olive to brown in both sexes.
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Extremities:	Strong with enlarged transverse scales on the forelegs. The toes are fully webbed.
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Tail:	Moderate in size.
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Head:	Moderate in size with a short, slightly upturned, projecting snout. Upper jaw slightly notched with a toothlike projection on each side. Irregular scales present on the back of the head.
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Juvenile:

The keel is more distinct in juvenile specimens. The hind margin of the carapace is strongly serrated.

Distribution:

The river systems of Ganges, Godavari and Krishna in northeastern India, Nepal and Bangladesh. Occurrence in Myanmar has been reported, but is questionable.

**Population:**

IUCN Red List (2000): Critically Endangered (CR – A1cd). Populations in India suffered a decline of more than 80 % within twenty years, resulting in a population of less than 1'000 in total in 1997. The species is also considered as rare in the other range states.

Captive population:

No specimens are recorded in ISIS at the end of 2004. The species is kept in several Indian zoos but no breeding success has been reported so far.

Trade:

Legal and illegal exports from Nepal and mainly Bangladesh are recorded and illegal shipments destined to China have been confiscated in India as well. Smaller numbers have been found in Chinese food markets mainly in the 90ies. No legal trade has been recorded by the CITES parties in 2003.

This information is provided on the CITES trade database, managed by UNEP-World conservation monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) at the following web site address: <http://www.cites.org/eng/resources/trade.shtml>.

Intraspecific variation:

No subspecies are currently recognized.

Similar species:

Juveniles of the different species within the genus *Kachuga* are generally difficult to distinguish as many species bear a prominent keel and show a head pattern of pale stripes. A distinct characteristic for *Kachuga kachuga* are the backward projections of the vertebral keel on 2nd and 3rd vertebral scute.

Kachuga kachuga can be distinguished from the only other species showing this character, *Kachuga dhongoka*, by lacking three dark stripes on the carapace, by a straight posterior border of the 2nd vertebral scute and by the humero-pectoral seam joining the middle plastral seam in an obtuse angle. Another similar species, *Batagur baska*, has four instead of five claws on the forefeet.

Bibliography:

- Das, I. (2001) Die Schildkröten des Indischen Subkontinents. Edition Chimaira. Frankfurt am Main.
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- Pritchard, P.C.H. (1979) Encyclopedia of turtles. T.F.H. Hong Kong.