

Survey of Endangered Tortoises

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Abstract

Tortoise belong to Kingdom animalia ,Phylum Chordata ,Class Reptilia ,Order Testudines ,Suborder Cryptodira , Family Testudinidae .Aldabra Giant tortoise (*Aldabrachelys gigantea*) & Galapagos giant tortoise are largest tortoise exceeding 100 kg. Testudo (Linnaeus 1758).

Tortoises and turtles are in trouble more than 75 % species are facing extinction.(Liz Kimbrough July 2020)

We studied endangered tortoises in this paper.

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I. Introduction

Tortoises belongs to family Testudinidae. Turtles and tortoises are tormenting due to habitat loss , Anthropological activities. More than 75 % species are Threatened ,endangered or facing extinction .

Family Testudinae Batsch 1788.

Alantochelon :A. myteum

Aldabrachelys gigantea (Loveridge & Williams 1957).

Native Island

sland Aldabra atoll & Seychelles .This is 2 nd largest tortoise. Size 122 cm. can survive 100 years or more.



Image1 . : *Astrochelys* (Gray 1873).

Astrochelys radiata
Astrochelys yniphora, Angonoka Tortoise
Centrochelys atlantica



Image2. : *Centrochelys atlantica*

Extinct species Of Pleistocece.
C. robusta
C. vulcanica .
Erqilemys bruneti.
Geochelone elegans



Image3. : *Geochelone elegans*

Also known as Indian Star tortoise. It is threatened species. Listed vulnerable (1000 individuals remain.). native to srilanka , india ,Pakistan.

Geochelone burchardi

Geochelone vulcanica

Geochelone robusta

Geochelone platynota.

Gopherus Rafinesque



Image4. : *Gopherus rafinesque*

Gopherus Rafinesque

Gopher Tortoise, fossorial Tortoise, Mojave & South America, North Mexico, these can dig deep & large burrow.

Female lay 4- 14 eggs in sunny spot.

These are herbivores & eat grass, fruit, legume & vegetables, berries. live in mesic habitat. *G. polyphemus* are vulnerable to endangered. *G. evgoodei* are Near Endangered to Vulnerable. *G. berlandieri* are near endangered to Threatened.

G. agassizii Vulnerable to Critically endangered. Their burrows are also used by insects, Mammals, reptiles, amphibians,

Birds.

Geochelone agassizii

Geochelone berlandieri

Geochelone flavomarginatus

Geochelone morafkai

Geochelone polyphemus

Chelonoidis (Fitzinger 1835).

Chelonoidis niger

C. chilensis.

C. sellovii.

Chersina angulata (African bowsprit tortoise).



Image5. : *Chersina angulata*

Chersina angulata

Red belly Tortoise ., angulate Tortoise ., bowsprit Tortoise ., Padloper Tortoise are their close relatives.

Chersobius boulengeri

C. signatus

C. solus .

Cylindraspis vosmaeri (Saddle backed Rodrigues giant tortoise).

C. peltastes (Domed Rodrigues giant tortoise) .

Hadrianus brontops

Hesperotestudo osborniana

Homopus areolatus Cape tortoise ,
padloper or parrot beak tortoise .



Image6. : *Homopus areolatus*

Homopus areolatus

Known as common padloper Tortoise . , parrot beak Tortoise . of South Africa .

Shell brown to olive green .

4 toes ,males smaller than females.

Lays 4 eggs ,hatch in 300 days.

Sp threatened due to habitat destruction .

Trade is illegal .

Dogs and pigs are its enemies.

H. femoralis (1929) greater dwarf tortoise
.greater padloper.

Indotestudo elongate (Yellow headed)



Image7. : Indotestudo elongate

Indotestudo elongate belongs to family
Testudinidae .

Also known as Elongated Tortoise .It is Critically Endangered tortoise.

Shell flat at vertebral region and depressed. Serrated in young.

Tail end claw like horny tubercle.

30 cm long , 3.5 kg weight.

Female flat plastron ,male concave
plastron. Found in Burma (Myanmar)

,Tenasserim ,

Arakan , South China ,West Malaysia ,

Vietnam ,Cambodia , Thailand (Phuket),

Laos ,Bangladesh ,Nepal , Singhbhum

(Jharkhand) , East Bengal ,Jalpaiguri

,Tripura ,India.

It can be viewed everywhere in Ban
Kok (Suan Mon) ,Mancha Khiri (Khon kaen
,Isan) NorthEast Thailand . Local name Tao
Pek. Its shell has medicinal value as
aphrodisiac . So population is declining .

Indotestudo forstenii

Indotestudo travancoria

Kinixys belliana also known as *Bells hinge back tortoise*.

Bells tortoise ,Hinge back tortoise ,hinge tortoise of east region .

Belongs to family *Testudinidae* .

It is found in Central Africa .



Image8. : *Kinixys belliana*



Image9. : *Kinixys belliana*

Kinixys erosa serrated hinge back tortoise, forest hinge-back tortoise.
Kinixys spekii Speke's hinge back tortoise.
Kinixys natalensis natal hinge back Tortoise.

Kinixys lobatsiana Lobate hinge back tortoise.

K. homeana Home's hinge back tortoise .
Malacochersus Lindholm 1929 .
M. tornieri (Pancake Tortoise) Kenya Tanzania .



Image 10. : Malacochersus tornieri

Malacochersus tornieri is also known as Flat shell Tortoise or Pancake Tortoise.
Found in Tanzania ,Kenya . It is Critically Endangered .
Name is given in honor of German Gustav Tornier .
Threatened due to habitat destruction .

Manouria
Manouria emys Asian tortoise Giant (Brown)

Manouria impressa



Image11. : *Manouria impressa*

Also known as Impressed tortoise ,Manouria impressed tortoise .
Found in South East Asia .
These tortoise have primitive characters .
Found in Mountains forest of South East Asia .

Psammobates Fitzinger 1835.
Psammobates geometricus



Image 12. : *Psammobates geometricus*

Geometric tortoise are rarest tortoise.
Psamobates oculifer, Kalahari tent tortoise
, serrated tortoise.
Psamobates tentorius tent African
tortoise .
Pyxis Bell 1827.
Pyxis arachnoids (Spider Tortoise .)



Image13. : Pyxis arachnoids

Smallest Tortoise ,native place is Madagascar .
These aestivate during dry hot season & hibernate during cold season .
This species is critically endangered IUCN 3.1.
Present in South West .Madagascar.Life 70 years .
Feed in leaves & insects.
Female lay 1 egg , incubated for 250 days.
This tortoise trade is not legal in Madagascar.
planicauda flat backed spider Tortoise
(Madagascan Tortoise.) flat tailed spider Tortoise .
Stigmochelys Gray 1873.
S. pardalis (Leopard Tortoise .)
East & South Savannas Africa .



Image 14: *Stigmochelys pardalis*

Also known as leopard Tortoise ,East and S. Africa Savana(Sudan to South Cape .).prefer grassland & thorny semiarid.

Becomes inactive in v. cold & v. hot weather.

4 th largest species Of Tortoise .

Kenya and Tanzania captive breeding programmes are exercised.

II. Conclusion

Different species of tortoise are living on different islands .

We should try to conserve Tortoises because they are getting close to extinction. Tortoises are unique vertebrates .

Both Pectoral and pelvic girdles are situated Inside ribcage .there size are from few centimeters to 2-2.5 meters. Terrestrial Tortoises are herbivores feed on fruits ,flowers ,weeds ,greens , leaves , grasses . others are omnivores also feed on insects, carrions and worms.

*Green sea turtle *Chelonia mydas* ,

*Leatherback sea turtle *Dermochelys coriacea* , *Loggerhead sea turtle *Caretta caretta* ,*

Olive Ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea* ,*Kimp's Ridley Sea Turtle (*Lepidochelys*

kempii ,*Hawksbill sea turtle (*Eremochelys imbricate*) are endangered sea turtles. To conserve

Tortoise and turtles we have to conserve their natural habitat.

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