

**Studbook
breeding program**

Hermann's tortoise (*Testudo hermanni hermanni*)



Photo: L. Woldring

Annual report 2004

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1. introduction and activities 2004

The year 2004 was also a successful year for the studbook. It has to be mentioned that mutations up 1-6-2005 are included in this report. Five new participants were added to studbook. Four Dutch and one Italian participant. It is a good thing that Italians are willing to participate into the studbook as this subspecies is much better represented among Italian turtle hobbyist than in the Netherlands or Germany.

The animals from the Italian participant are from a known origin and therefore of high value to the studbook. This is also a good breeding nucleus. Unfortunately it is still not easy to obtain CITES certificates for captive bred tortoises in Italy which enables imports to The Netherlands where there is still a high demand for this subspecies.

The situation in the wild at least in Italy seems to become rather dramatic for this subspecies. (Willemsen pers.com)

2. Population

At the moment the populations consist of 81 living animals. 19 Males, 26 females and 36 animals of unknown sex. (19.26.36) This is a studbook population increase of 29 animals.

Animals of various known origin are listed in the studbook. Founder animals origin from: France, Corsica and Tuscany. F1 animals listed in the studbook origin from parents from: France, Tuscany and Apulia.

Although many enthusiasts have an opinion on the morphological differences between several populations little is published on this topic. The only serious article I could find is by Willemsen: (internet 1), who has done a lot of research on *Testudo hermanni*.

According to Willemsen less morphological variation can be noticed in this subspecies in contrast to *Testudo hermanni boettgeri*.

In my personal opinion there is not much variation in morphology between populations from mainland Italy and France. The main differences are the various mean body sizes between populations. In my opinion this is due to factors as climate, soil and nutrition. Different is the situation on several Mediterranean islands like Corsica and Sardinia. Animals from these islands resemble features from both *Testudo h. hermanni* as *T.h. boettgeri*. Most likely this is due to introductions of *T. h. boettgeri* by mankind in ancient history.

A problem in Italy is the introduction of escaped or released pet tortoises. These pet tortoises do often not belong to the local form or even subspecies. The consequence is that hybridization occurs between wild and introduced pet tortoises and the local genotype becomes "polluted." Hybrids are often hard to recognize. This is becoming a serious threat, as it is an irreversible process.

Within the studbook the origin of the animals is recorded as accurate as possible. A differentiation is made between animals from France, Central Italy, Southern Italy and all the several Mediterranean islands. Breeding advice will be given in order to combine the most compatible animals.

3. Locations

There are 10 locations included in the studbook. 8 in the Netherlands, 1 in Germany and 1 in Italy. Hopefully more locations will be added from Germany, Italy and France in the near future.

4. Births

Births were reported from location 9 and 10. In both cases only 1 animal hatched. At location 7: 15 animals hatched. Only the animals born at location 9 and 10 are registered in the studbook with number 69 and 77. Breeding results were rather poor this year. There is no clear explanation for these poor breeding results.



Hybrid female



hybrid male



Plastron hybrids

5. Imports

Four captive bred juveniles were imported from Italy to location 1 in the Netherlands. Hopefully in the future more captive bred animals from known origin will be imported from Italy in order to increase genetic variation within the studbook.

6. Deaths

Unfortunately five animals died.

At location 1 studbooknr.. 39 and 40 died during hibernation of unknown causes. Nr. 63 died after several weeks of malfunctioning at the same location.

At location 9 nr 69 died during hibernation.

7. Transfers

In 2004 Nr 45 and 59 moved from location 5 to location 10.

8. Future actions

In 2005 a start is made with a population research in the regional park: Parco della Murgia Materana in the province of Matera (Basilicata) in southern Italy. More about this will be published in next years report.

A future project is to organise a studbookparticipants meeting for all the “Testudo” studbooks.

A small article will be written about the studbook for the magazine of the Dutch herpetological society: Lacerta.

9. Conclusions

For the moment the studbook is functioning well. More participants are still welcome. Especially animals from known origin are welcome. There is absolutely no problem in placing captive bred animals at new locations. Actually, there is still a high demand for this subspecies.

Internet:

1. Some differences in morphology between Greek, Italian and Corsican tortoise populations, 9-10-2003, R.E. Willemsen, Doetichem, The Netherlands: <http://www.ahailey.f9.co.uk/ronald.htm>

Testudo hermanni hermanni

Reptilia / Testudines / Testudinidae
Studbook Compiled by: Laurens Woldring

Loc = Current location

Outside = Location of non studbook participant

ID	Location	Date	Local ID	Event	Sex	Hatch	Sire	Dam
1	Outside 1 Loc 1	~01-07-95 15-08-99	Th02	Hatch/Birth Transfer	Female	01-07-95	UNK	UNK
2	Loc 3 Loc 1	08-09-86 13-04-03	81 Th05	Hatch/Birth Transfer	Female	08-08-86	UNK	15
3	UNKNOWN Loc 2	~01-07-99 ~03-08-99		Hatch/Birth Transfer	Female	01-07-99	UNK	UNK
4	WILD Loc 2	~01-07-83 ~19-07-97		Wild Caught Transfer	Female	~01-07-83	WILD	WILD
5	UNKNOWN Loc 2	~01-07-87 ~07-03-98		Hatch/Birth Transfer	Female	~01-07-87	UNK	UNK
6	UNKNOWN Loc 2	~01-07-99 ~03-08-99		Hatch/Birth Transfer	Male	~01-07-99	UNK	UNK
7	Loc 2	~10-10-03	jong 1	Hatch/Birth	Unknown	10-10-03	6	4
8	Loc 2	~12-10-03	jong 2	Hatch/Birth	Unknown	12-10-03	6	4
9	Loc 2	~21-12-03		Hatch/Birth	Unknown	21-12-03	6	4
10	Loc 2	~26-12-03		Hatch/Birth	Unknown	26-12-03	6	4
11	Loc 2	27-12-03		Hatch/Birth	Unknown	27-12-03	6	4
12	WILD Outside 2 Loc 3	~01-01-70 ~01-01-71 09-10-71	12	Wild Caught Transfer Transfer	Male	~01-07-63	WILD	WILD
13	WILD Outside 3 Loc 3	~01-01-74 ~01-01-75 19-08-76	23	Wild Caught Transfer Transfer	Male	~01-07-71	WILD	WILD
14	WILD Outside 4 Loc 3	~01-01-66 ~01-01-67 20-07-68	5	Wild Caught Transfer Transfer	Female	~01-07-61	WILD	WILD
15	WILD Outside 5 Loc 3	~01-01-68 ~01-01-69 ~01-04-70	9	Wild Caught Transfer Transfer	Female	~01-07-60	WILD	WILD
16	WILD Outside 6 Loc 3	~01-01-69 ~01-01-70 14-07-71	11	Wild Caught Transfer Transfer	Female	~01-07-65	WILD	WILD
17	WILD Outside 7 Loc 3	~01-01-71 ~01-01-72 24-06-73	14	Wild Caught Transfer Transfer	Female	~01-07-68	WILD	WILD
18	Loc 3	07-09-86	78	Hatch/Birth	Female	07-09-86	MULT 1	15
19	Loc 3	19-08-88	95	Hatch/Birth	Male	19-08-88	MULT 1	16
20	Loc 3	20-08-88	102	Hatch/Birth	Female	20-08-88	MULT 1	17
21	Loc 3	10-08-92	144	Hatch/Birth	Female	10-08-92	MULT 1	UNK
22	Loc 3	12-08-93	161	Hatch/Birth	Male	12-08-93	MULT 1	17
23	Loc 3	22-08-96	211	Hatch/Birth	Female	22-08-96	MULT 1	15

24	Loc 3	01-09-96	216	Hatch/Birth	Female	01-09-96	MULT 1	UNK
25	Loc 3	14-09-96	217	Hatch/Birth	Male	14-09-96	MULT 1	UNK
26	Loc 3	13-08-99	223	Hatch/Birth	Female	13-08-99	MULT 1	17
27	Loc 3	13-08-99	224	Hatch/Birth	Female	13-08-99	MULT 1	17
28	Loc 3	13-08-99	225	Hatch/Birth	Unknown	13-08-99	MULT 1	17
29	Loc 3	27-08-99	229	Hatch/Birth	Unknown	27-08-99	MULT 1	15
30	Loc 3	28-08-99	231	Hatch/Birth	Unknown	28-08-99	MULT 1	15
31	Loc 3	29-08-99	232	Hatch/Birth	Unknown	29-08-99	MULT 1	15
32	Loc 3	15-08-02	244	Hatch/Birth	Unknown	15-08-02	MULT 1	16
33	Loc 3	15-08-02	245	Hatch/Birth	Unknown	15-08-98	MULT 1	16
34	Loc 3	17-08-02	246	Hatch/Birth	Unknown	17-08-02	MULT 1	16
35	Loc 3	30-08-02	249	Hatch/Birth	Unknown	30-08-02	MULT 1	14
36	Loc 3	02-08-03	252	Hatch/Birth	Unknown	02-08-03	MULT 1	14
37	Loc 3	05-08-03	253	Hatch/Birth	Unknown	05-08-03	MULT 1	14
38	Loc 3 Loc 1	13-08-99 13-04-03	226 Th06	Hatch/Birth Transfer	Male	13-08-99	MULT 1	17
39	Loc 3 Loc 1 Loc 1	20-08-00 13-04-03 11-02-05	102 Th07 Th07	Hatch/Birth Transfer Death	Unknown	07-08-00	MULT 1	17
40	Loc 3 Loc 1 Loc 1	10-08-00 13-04-03 06-01-05	239 Th08 Th08	Hatch/Birth Transfer Death	Unknown	10-08-00	MULT 1	17
41	Outside 8 Loc 4	01-08-99 01-02-00		Hatch/Birth Transfer	Male	01-08-99	UNK	UNK
42	Outside 8 Loc 4	01-08-99 01-02-00		Hatch/Birth Transfer	Male	01-08-99	UNK	UNK
43	Outside 8 Loc 4	01-08-99 01-02-00		Hatch/Birth Transfer	Male	01-08-99	UNK	UNK
44	Outside 8 Loc 4	01-08-99 01-02-00		Hatch/Birth Transfer	Unknown	01-08-99	UNK	UNK
45	Loc 5 Loc 10	08-01-01 23-05-01	E.C.30	Transfer Transfer	Male	~01-07-90	WILD	WILD
46	Outside 9 Loc 5	01-08-00 20-02-01		Hatch/Birth Transfer	Unknown	01-08-00	UNK	UNK
47	Loc 10 Loc 5	08-08-02 18-08-02		Hatch/Birth Transfer	Unknown	08-08-02	UNK	UNK
48	Loc 10 Loc 5	08-08-02 18-08-02		Hatch/Birth Transfer	Unknown	08-08-02	UNK	UNK
49	Loc 10 Loc 1	29-07-03 05-11-03	Th09	Hatch/Birth Transfer	Unknown	29-07-03	UNK	UNK
50	Loc 10 Loc 1	29-07-03 05-11-03	Th10	Hatch/Birth Transfer	Unknown	29-07-03	UNK	UNK
51	Loc 10 Loc 1	02-08-03 05-11-03	Th11	Hatch/Birth Transfer	Unknown	02-08-03	UNK	UNK
52	Loc 10 Loc 1	02-08-03 05-11-03	Th12	Hatch/Birth Transfer	Unknown	02-08-03	UNK	UNK
53	Outside 9 Loc 6	25-08-02 02-09-02		Hatch/Birth Transfer	Male	25-08-02	UNK	UNK
54	Outside 9 Loc 6	25-08-02 02-09-02		Hatch/Birth Transfer	Female	25-08-02	UNK	UNK

55	WILD Loc 7	~01-05-90 ~01-05-90		Wild Caught Transfer	Female	~01-07-80	WILD	WILD
56	WILD Loc 7	~01-05-90 ~01-05-90		Wild Caught Transfer	Female	~01-07-84	WILD	WILD
57	WILD Loc 7	~01-05-90 ~01-05-90		Wild Caught Transfer	Female	~01-07-87	WILD	WILD
58	WILD Loc 7	~01-05-90 ~01-05-99		Wild Caught Transfer	Male	~01-07-88	WILD	WILD
59	Loc 10 Loc 5	01-07-03 09-08-04	Thh04	Hatch/Birth Transfer	Unknown	01-07-03	UNK	UNK
60	WILD Outside 10 Loc 8	~01-07-99 ~01-07-99 ~01-07-03		Wild Caught Transfer Transfer	Male	~01-07-90	WILD	WILD
61	WILD Outside 10 Loc 8	~01-07-99 ~01-07-99 ~01-07-03		Wild Caught Transfer Transfer	Female	~01-07-90	WILD	WILD
62	Outside 1 Loc 1	01-07-95 15-08-99	Thh15	Hatch/Birth Transfer	Male	01-07-95	UNK	UNK
63	Outside 1 Loc 1 Loc 1	01-07-95 15-08-99 12-10-04	Thh16 Thh16	Hatch/Birth Transfer Death	Male	01-07-95	UNK	UNK
64	UNK Loc 9	~01-07-91 ~01-01-96	Lange Lange	Hatch/Birth Transfer	Female	~01-07-91	UNK	UNK
65	UNK Loc 9	~01-07-91 ~01-01-96	grote Grote	Hatch/Birth Transfer	Male	~01-07-91	UNK	UNK
66	UNK Loc 9	~01-07-92 ~01-01-96 01-02-05	Deukje Deukje	Hatch/Birth Transfer Death	Male	~01-07-92	UNK	UNK
67	UNK Loc	~01-07-90 ~01-01-96	grotev grotev	Hatch/Birth Transfer	Female	~01-07-90	UNK	UNK
68	UNK Loc 9	~01-07-91 ~01-01-96	Slagje Slagje	Hatch/Birth Transfer	Female	~01-07-91	UNK	UNK
69	Loc 9	11-08-04		Hatch/Birth	Unknown	11-08-04	65	68
70	WILD Loc 10	~01-07-75 14-08-00	25375	Hatch/Birth Transfer	Female	~01-07-75	WILD	WILD
71	UNK Loc 10	15-07-98 ~01-01-00	DE HE	Hatch/Birth Transfer	Male	15-07-98	UNK	UNK
72	Outside 9 Loc 10	15-06-99 24-08-99	DE-HS-	Hatch/Birth Transfer	Female	15-06-99	UNK	UNK
73	Outside 9 Loc 10	15-06-99 24-08-99	DE-HS-	Hatch/Birth Transfer	Male	15-06-99	UNK	UNK
74	Outside 9 Loc 10	15-06-99 24-08-99	DE-HS-	Hatch/Birth Transfer	Male	15-06-99	UNK	UNK
75	Loc 10	30-08-02	DE-HS-	Hatch/Birth	Unknown	30-08-02	MULT 2	MULT 3
76	Loc 10	30-08-02	DE-HS-	Hatch/Birth	Unknown	30-08-02	MULT 2	MULT 3
77	Loc 10	06-02-05	DE-HS-	Hatch/Birth	Unknown	30-08-02	MULT 2	MULT 3
78	Loc 10	27-07-03	DE-HS-	Hatch/Birth	Unknown	27-07-03	MULT 2	MULT 3
79	Loc 10	27-07-03	DE-HS-	Hatch/Birth	Unknown	27-07-03	MULT 2	MULT 3
80	Loc 10	27-07-03	DE-HS-	Hatch/Birth	Unknown	27-02-03	MULT 2	MULT 3
81	Loc 10	27-07-03	DE-HS-	Hatch/Birth	Unknown	27-07-03	MULT 2	MULT 3
82	Loc 10	27-07-03	DE-HS-	Hatch/Birth	Unknown	27-07-03	MULT 2	MULT 3

83	Outside 11 Loc 1	28-09-04 13-05-05	Th18	Hatch/Birth Transfer	Unknown	28-09-04	UNK	UNK
84	Outside 11 Loc 1	11-09-04 13-05-05	Th19	Hatch/Birth Transfer	Unknown	11-09-04	UNK	UNK
85	Outside 11 Loc 1	11-09-04 13-05-05	Th20	Hatch/Birth Transfer	Unknown	11-09-04	UNK	UNK
86	Outside 11 Loc 1	28-09-04 13-05-05	Th21	Hatch/Birth Transfer	Unknown	28-09-04	UNK	UNK