

# **STUDBOOK BREEDING PROGRAMME**

## **GEOCLEMYS HAMILTONI**

**HAMILTON'S TERRAPIN  
BLACK POND TURTLE  
STRAHLEN – DREIKIELSCHILDKRÖTE  
GÉOCLEMYDE D' HAMILTON  
GÁLAPAGO RAYADO  
DRIEKIELSTRAALSCHILDPAD**



Foto: H.J. Rotmans

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**European Studbook Foundation**

**Studbook keepers: Harry Rotmans and Henk Zwartepoorte**



**E**uropean  
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## INTRODUCTION

The *G. hamiltoni* is still on the CITES Appendix I. The situation in the natural habitat of this turtle is still critical. The increased big floods of the riverbanks especially in Bangladesh are still disastrous for the nests. Especially the Tsunami was a destroying moment. The supply on the Chinese foods markets is also in 2005 remarkable reduced.

The bad situation in the habitats of the *G. hamiltoni* seems to continue.

In 2005 the studbook *Geoclemys hamiltoni* goes through a great experience.



Foto: H.A. Zwartepoorte

At Wednesday 24, at 17.45 arrived at Schiphol Airport in the Netherlands  
2.2 adult wild *Geoclemys hamiltoni* from the Wild Animal Rescue Center of Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden in Hong Kong.

The president of the Turtle Survival Alliance- Europe, Henk Zwartepoorte, did a lot of important work for this operation. Many thanks to him.

The Blijdorp Zoo in Rotterdam and the Artis Zoo in Amsterdam will each accommodate 1.1 wild adults. Special thanks to mr. Eugène Bruins of Artis  
These turtles are also registered in this studbook. Because of that fact, there now are 3.3 genetic independent bloodlines in the studbook. Now it's finally possible

to develop a genetic healthy population in captivity by starting a breeding programme.

Also in 2005 there is found a great F2-generation in a relative large number in Germany, Austria, Czech and Switzerland. This F2-generation is not registered in this studbook.

Outside Europe there are some breeding results in the United States of America. It would be very favourable, in case there maybe is a possibility to exchange hamiltoni bloodlines with American breeders.

### **STUDBOOK POPULATION.**

In the Studbook *Geoclemys hamiltoni* are 219 animals registered in 2005 (It must be noticed that there are specimen of this species in the EU-countries outside this studbook)

Registered turtles:

4.4 adult wild genetic independent turtles. One of the females has a medical problem and can not breed.

From the total studbook numbers 219 turtles are:

8 adults alive: 4 females and 4 males, 1 female breeding impossible, 1 male dead  
210 hatchlings, 11 dead, 1 deformed by birth.

This hatchlings were born in:

1993	6
1994	23
1995	40
1996	22
1997	30
1998	31
1999	21
2000	16
2001	–
2002	–
2003	20
2004	10
2005	-

In 2005 there are no new hatchlings from the primeval breeding couple registered in the studbook.

With regard to the adults: During 2001 and 2002 the female was not in optimal condition, so reproduction did not occur.

Because of the very many hatchlings and the impossibility to keep those animals all in The Netherlands, most hatchlings has been transported in the past years to other European countries, so it is not to be said if all these animals are male or female.

### **LOCATIONS.**

At December 31, 2005 the species is kept in The Netherlands (10 places), United Kingdom (1 place), Italy (2 places), Sweden (1 place), Spain (1 place) and Germany (6 places).

### **IMPORTS.**

In 2005 there has been one import in the western part of Europe, namely in the Netherlands.

### **DEATHS.**

No deaths are reported in 2005.

### **BOTTLE-NECK.**

One of the proposes of the European Studbook is to try to breed endangered reptiles in captivity on purpose to take care that the species will not be died out.

The breeding of the original 1.1 *G. hamiltonii* in captivity is no problem. But also in 2005 it appears that especially in the Netherlands there are few specialized people who wants to take care of these turtles. There are several good reasons for this opinion.

This turtle is rather large before it will produced eggs and hatchlings. Therefore it needs a lot of space and many turtle-keepers just cannot give that space. The turtle eats in freedom mostly snails. Of course it is impossible to feed the animal in its natural way. In itself this is no problem, there are enough good other alternatives and variation is also important. Beside it, it takes a long time to get a couple to breed. It also takes a rather long time before they trust their keeper. More than that: it is impossible to replace the turtle in its habitat, not only for raisons of diseases, genetic and survival instinct, but also means replacing the species in the wild the sad reality that this turtle will be captured again for food. An other problem is the continuous explosive grow of the Indian population and the damage or the disappearance of its habitat. It is hardly to believe, but the Indian population is for years more voluminous in number than the Chinese population.

### **REQUEST.**

The studbook keeper is still looking for new bloodlines in the EU-countries. Therefore the keepers of one of more *G. hamiltonii*, who do not participate until this moment in this studbook, are gladly invited to contact the studbook-keeper.

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