

Studbook breeding programme

Manouria emys spp.

(Burmese brown tortoise)



Photo by Rob Vocht

Annual report 2013

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Studbook
Foundation

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1. Introduction

Manouria emys emys (Schlegel and Muller 1844)

Burmese brown, Asian forest tortoise , Asian brown tortoise
adult size up to 50 cm, weight 25 to 30 kilogram.

Carapace light to dark brown in color

Pectoral shields extend halfway to midline of plastron

Occurs peninsular Thailand, Malaysia, Sumatra, and Borneo,
the Indo Australian archipelago.

Subspecies: *Manouria emy phayrei*, (Blyth, 1853)

Carapace more domed then *emys emys* and more dark brown to black, the
pectoral shields meet at the midline of the plastron . Adult size up to 60 cm and
weight 30 to 40 kilogram.

Range of offspring: 23 to 51 but average numbers of offspring 39.

Gestation period: 63 to 84 days

Primary diet: mainly herbivorous, occasionally carnivorous

Plant foods: leaves, seeds, grains, nuts, fruits, fungus.

Animal foods: amphibians, snails, terrestrial worms, small rodents.

Status

Currently Cites II status and are considered very threatened in their countries of
origin.



Photo by: Rob Vocht

History

The *Manouria emys* is one of the world's most ancient tortoises. The Genus *Manouria* is considered to be the first of the terrestrial chelonians. This species have become increasingly rare in their natural habitat due to habitat loss, collection for food and as pets. Undertaking protective measures is therefore more than necessary. Breeding of a strong population in captivity would be beneficial for the future of this species . Captive-bred animals in Europe originate from only a few bloodlines. Therefore keeping close track of these bred animals would be highly important for a healthy population in the future. Because of the large amount of hatchling over the last 4 years of only the few known breeding couples that are in the studbooks not only keeping track but also finding new more participants is of great concern .

2. Studbook population

There are currently 166 *M. emys emys* present in the studbook. Over the last 18 month three animals died with unknown reason. Four nests are hatched. In total there are 126 registered *M. emys emys* hatchlings.

Although at first mainly involves building a healthy *M. emys emys* population is also given attention to a viable population *M. emys phayrei*.

From *phayrei* three nests are known and one of them produced five hatchlings . The second nest didn't hatch and and the third nest, the outcome still unknown.



Photo by: Rob Vocht

Overall the small *M. emys emys* population in Europe seems to be healthy and strong.

But since the size of this majestic animal is keeping and breeding still reason that many animals are kept in small groups or just as a single animal.

The total of breeding couples is quite small. Although the amount of eggs per litter is quite big not all eggs seem to hatch.

Therefore is a great concern for the future of this population of *manouria*.

3. Conclusion

Conclusive the total *manouria* population is very fragile in nature as well as in captivity in Europe. New participants with new specimen are necessary.

Also finding animals of different bloodlines are of great concern for both *emys emys* and *emys phayrei* .

4. Request

The studbook keepers are looking for new bloodlines in the EU-countries.

Therefore the keepers of one of more *Manouria emys emys* or *Manouria emys phayrei*, who do not participate with their animals until this moment in this studbook, are gladly invited to contact the studbook keepers.

Please note that offspring, bred hatchlings, transfers are appreciated to be registered in the studbook.

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Photo by: Rob Vocht, 12 year old *Manouria emys emys*

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