

Studbook breeding programme
Agrionemys horsfieldii
(Central Asian tortoise)



Photo by Brian L.

Annual report 2010

Sjef Ramaekers studbook keeper



European
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1. Introduction

Agrionemys horsfieldii is a popular and one of the most kept tortoise in captivity. It's sometimes seen as a rather easy to keep tortoise which is unfortunately not true. The species has been imported since decades in large numbers. Many of these animals die within a couple of years due to bad housing conditions and diseases.

2. Studbook population

In total 103 animals are kept (105 in 2009, 93 in 2008). It concerns 28 males, 52 females and 23 with (still) unknown sex.

3. Locations

The species is kept at 23 locations (24 in 2009, 30 in 2007), all in the Netherlands.

4. Birth

Breeding results of *Agrionemys horsfieldii* are improving the recent years. This is probably due to the fact that more and more imported young animals get mature. The young animals are not automatically registered in the studbook.

5. Imports

The species is still imported in rather large numbers. The countries of central Asia in particular Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan are the main supplies of the horsfieldii tortoises to the international trade. From Uzbekistan some "ranch activities" are known. Adult animals are harvested in the wild. Juveniles obtained from these wild taken animals are considered F1 specimens and get exported mainly to Europe, US and Japan.

6. Death

Sadly enough each year tortoises still die. Most animals died shortly after waking up from hibernation. One of the reasons can be that the animals are kept in too moist hibernation conditions.

7. Discussion

The number of animals in the studbook is decreasing due to a decreasing number of locations keeping *A. horsfieldii* and an ongoing mortality of animals directly after hibernation. Too moist hibernation conditions could be due to this.

In this year at 2 locations all animals are tested positive for herpes. Probably the studbook will take action to investigate how many animals within the studbook are infected with this virus. More information will follow soon.

Members of this studbook who decided to stop keeping *A. horsfieldii*, sell their animals without informing the studbook keeper or the other participants of the studbook.

Because of this many animals get lost for the studbook. Sadly enough in most cases its considers wild hatched animals. These animals have genetically a high value for the studbook, much more than the nowadays imported farm bred tortoises.

At new locations most of the time new imported tortoises are kept which are probably farm bred animals .

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