

Studbook breeding programme

Cuora mccordi

(McCords box turtle)



Photo by: Henk Zwartepoorte

Annual report 2009

Henk Zwartepoorte, studbook keeper

Elmar Meier, co studbook keeper



KvK nr. 41136106

www.studbooks.eu

Annual report 2009

Contents:

- 1.Introduction**
- 2.Studbook population**
- 3.Locations**
- 4.Births**
- 5.Imports**
- 6.Deaths**
- 7.Transfers**
- 8.Discussions**
- 9.Activities planned for 2008**

Introduction:

The critically endangered status of *Cuora mccordi* is reason for great concern. There is an ongoing discussion about possible sightings in the wild, however concrete information on this is not available. By many the species is supposed to be extinct in the wild. What is for sure is the fact that the captive population in both the USA and Europe is very small with few founder animals. Reproduction in Europe so far is only reported by the Munster Zoo in Germany and a very limited number of private breeders. The basis for this ESF studbook consists mainly of the three founder groups in the Munster Zoo and possibly a few privately born animals. All three groups are producing offspring on a regular basis since 2004. Within the studbook population there are several specimens born at private locations; exact details on founder animals however are unknown. Positive element since the start of the studbook is the growth from 15 founder animals to a total of 49 specimens mainly caused by the good breeding results at the Munster Zoo. But the arrival during the past few years of 4 specimens born at private collections is very welcome.

2. Studbook population:

December 31, 2009 the total studbook population consists of 6.15.28 (49) specimens. This is a growth of the studbook population compared to December 31, 2008 of 16 specimens. Remarkable is that unequal balance between males and females. Certainly an increase of males would be very welcome.

3. Locations:

December 31, 2009 the number of participants counts 8 collections including 3 zoos (Munster, Whipsnade and Rotterdam).

4. Births:

During 2009 6 specimens are born at the Munster Zoo. In the annual report 2008/2009 it was written that of the Munster Zoo births the exact dams and sires were unknown. Partly this is still true but by improvement of administration and communication within the Munster Zoo for a part the exact dams and sires could be traced although for another part the hatchlings still have so called mult parents as the animals are born in groups with several possible dams and sires. Of the 6 2009 born hatchlings all dams and sires are known. They are born from 4 dams and 2 sires.

5. Imports:

No imports into the EU are reported. One animal is imported into the studbook population during 2009; one male specimen, born at a private location in Germany, was transferred to the Munster Zoo and from there to the Rotterdam Zoo.

6. Deaths:

One September 2008 born specimen (studbook number 000039) died April 1, 2009. The cause of death is unknown.

7. Transfers:

During 2009 4 specimens were transferred within the studbook. 3 specimens were transferred from the Munster zoo to 3 private participants and 1 specimen was transferred from the Munster Zoo to the Rotterdam Zoo. This last transfer in fact also an exchange with a private location was involved. By this the Rotterdam Zoo received a future male partner for her 4 females.

8. Discussions:

As indicated earlier the accurate assessment of all founder animals was not easy. However now all individual specimens are identified and photographed. Also the turtle administration of the Munster zoo is very well improved due to the great work of the zoo conservation officer Martina Raffel and Elmar Meier. During 2009 the communication and transfer/exchange preparation between the studbook keeper and both the Munster and Atlanta zoos in the USA was continued. Exchange and/or transfer of animals from and to the USA is still very difficult and thus time consuming. The studbook keeper established a good contact with TSA Cuora coordinator Ray Farrell in the USA who coordinated the exchange in the USA. So hopefully during 2010 we can finally carry out the planned exchange of 2 captive born animals between Munster and Atlanta. A plan already instigated 3 years ago.

9. Activities planned for 2010:

1. Drafting and publishing husbandry and breeding guidelines. This action point was already included in the 2008/2009 report. We definitely hope to carry it out this year.

2. Research for additional studbook specimens. This point is slowly improving. A few Munster zoo born animals were transferred to private collections creating zoo/private cooperation. How many private animals are kept outside the studbook is still unknown but it can be expected that as soon as private keepers become aware of the fact that species conservation is not just a zoo matter they will soon follow and seek rapprochement to the ESF studbook.

3. Incubation temperature experiments with respect to producing males. These experiments are currently running and next year certainly results of these can be expected.

4. Improvement of the efforts exchanging specimens with TSA members in the USA. See under point 8. But given the difficult legal procedures this aim will remain difficult and slow.

5. Gathering and compiling of all relevant literature.

6. Completion of the studbook specimens photo archive. This aim is finished. All studbook specimens are photo documented.

April 13, 2010.

Henk Zwartepoorte. Cuora mccordi studbook keeper.