

Studbook breeding programme

Heosemys grandis

(Giant Asian Pond turtle)



Photo by M. Hoekstra

Annual report 2012

Marnix Hoekstra, studbook keeper



European
Studbook
Foundation

KvK nr. 41136106
www.studbooks.eu

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1. Introduction

The studbook for the Giant Asian pond turtle was founded in January 2008. Over the past five years, the studbook population has slowly grown from 11 to 23 turtles.

Studbook participants and other keepers of the species can interact with each other through the *Heosemys grandis* forum: www.heosemys.org. The forum may also help to attract new participants.

2. Studbook population

At the end of 2012, the studbook had a population of 8.15.0 living turtles. The sub-adults in the studbook (numbers 6 through 10) can now all be identified as females.

3. Locations

At the end of 2012, there were 5 participants in 5 countries: the Netherlands, Germany, Belgium, United Kingdom & the Czech Republic.

4. Births

No hatchings have been registered in 2012. There have been unregistered hatchings, however.

One participant has a clutch of eggs in the incubator which are due to hatch in 2013.

5. Imports

As far as I know, no Giant Asian pond turtles have been imported into Europe since 2011.

6. Deaths

In February my first female, number 1 in the studbook, suddenly died. It was a great loss. I have taken her to the veterinary department of Utrecht university for an autopsy. Although pathologists have determined an immediate cause of death, the underlying causes remain a mystery.

7. Transfers

There have been no transfers within the studbook in 2012.

Two turtles (16 & 17) have been removed from the database because they have been reidentified as *Cyclemys atripons pulchristiata*. The numbers 16 & 17 will be recycled for new registrations.

Artis zoo in Amsterdam has decided to remove the last two *Heosemys grandis* from its collection and has offered them to the ESF studbook (with the approval of the ESB studbook coordinator). By the end of 2012, they have not yet been transferred.

8. Discussions

Some participants have chosen not to register all their turtles and breeding results. They are of course free to do so, but it raises doubts about their interest in staying in the studbook at all.

In the spring of 2012 I published an article about The European Studbook Foundation in the Finnish herpetological magazine *Herpetomania*.

9. Activities planned for 2013

A decision will have to be taken with regard to one keeper of a rescued turtle owned by ESF, who has neither registered the animal, nor paid a contribution for importing the turtle.

I am preparing an article, to be published in the Dutch/Belgian magazine *Trionyx*, about the postmortem report of my female.

April 2013

Marnix Hoekstra, studbook keeper *Heosemys grandis*
