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TORTOISES AND TURTLES

Yellow-margined Box Turtle

Cuora flavomarginata

Cuora flavomarginata is a medium-sized turtle with a hinged plastron, a strongly domed, dark brown carapace, a yellow dorsal stripe and yellow stripes behind the eyes. The shell reaches 14-19 cm, and the species comes from China, Taiwan and the Ryukyu Islands. It lives mostly on land in humid forest and needs a large, humid setup with a water tray, a basking spot, UVB and a cool season. The species is threatened in the wild.

Family: Geoemydidae Former name: *Cistoclemmys flavomarginata; Cyclemys flavomarginata; Cuora evelynae*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**14-19 cm** total length incl. tail
Weight	**400-1,000 g**
Lifespan	**15-25 years**
Active	**By day and at dusk**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial and semi-aquatic**
Habitat	**Wetland and temperate woodland and meadow**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**120 × 60 × 40 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**22-26 °C**
Basking spot	**28-32 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-22 °C**
Humidity	**60-80%**
Water	**Water section** depth 5-10 cm
Water temperature	**20-25 °C**
UVB	**Essential** Ferguson zone 2
Diet	**Insects, fruit, complete diet, plants and worms/snails**
Kept	**Singly, in pairs or in groups**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**1-4 eggs**
Incubation	**60-100 days** at 26-30 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix II**
EU annex	**Annex B**
IUCN	**Endangered (EN)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

A pair of adult *Cuora flavomarginata* needs a terrarium or enclosure of at least 120 × 60 × 40 cm, so the animals have room to get out of each other's way. Each extra adult turtle requires 10-20 % more floor area.

TEMPERATURE

By day the terrarium must be 22-26 °C, and the basking spot must be 28-32 °C, measured with an infrared thermometer on the shell. At night the temperature can fall to 18-22 °C. Hatchlings are kept warmer, at about 29 °C.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

Humidity must be 60-80 %, and the substrate must be damp but not wet. *Cuora flavomarginata* comes from a humid climate, and hatchlings dry out quickly.

WATER AND WATER QUALITY

The water tray must be large enough for an adult to wade in and lie down, but shallow enough that the animal can stand on the bottom with its head above water at all times.

LIGHTING AND UVB

UVB light is necessary for an animal kept indoors. *Cuora flavomarginata* lives in forest and forest edge and gets sun for parts of the day. Zone 2 suits a species from forest and forest edge.

FEEDING

Cuora flavomarginata is omnivorous. In the wild it eats snails, earthworms, molluscs, insects, berries and leaves. Adults prefer earthworms, snails and insect larvae and also take fruit and vegetables.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

Cuora flavomarginata is alert and shy. The animal withdraws quickly and closes its shell when startled, and immediately returns to hiding, even after many years in captivity.

NATIVE RANGE

China, Taiwan and Japan.