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TORTOISES AND TURTLES

Asian Leaf Turtle

Cyclemys dentata

A dark brown, leaf-shaped turtle from forest streams and damp forest in South-East Asia. The shell is low-domed and serrated at the rear, and the head and neck have red to orange stripes. Adults spend most of their time on land, while the young live in the water. The species needs a large, humid aquaterrarium and clean water, and it is shy.

Family: Geoemydidae Former name: *Cyclemys dhor; Cyclemys orbiculata; Cyclemys ovata*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**15-25 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**15-25 years**
Active	**At dusk and at night**
Lifestyle	**Semi-aquatic**
Habitat	**Rainforest and wetland**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**130 × 65 × 75 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**24-27 °C**
Basking spot	**30-32 °C**
Temperature, night	**22-25 °C**
Humidity	**70-90%**
Water	**Aquaterrarium** depth 15-20 cm
Water temperature	**22-26 °C**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 1
Diet	**Insects, fruit, complete diet, vertebrates and worms/snails**
Kept	**Singly**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**84-120 months**
Clutch size	**2-4 eggs**
Clutches per year	**1-5**
Incubation	**90-110 days** at 26-28 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix II**
EU annex	**Annex B**
IUCN	**Near Threatened (NT)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	There is little husbandry knowledge about *Cyclemys dentata*, and it is based on experience from the hobby, not on studies. The set-up is therefore also based on the species' habitat in forest streams.
TEMPERATURE	By day the air should be 24-27 °C, and the basking spot should be 30-32 °C. At night 22-25 °C is suitable. The water is kept at 22-26 °C; this figure is an estimate based on the air temperature.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	Humidity should be 70-90%, preferably around 80% by day and higher at night. It is maintained by misting twice a day, a thick, damp substrate layer with leaf litter, and damp hides filled with sphagnum at the cool end.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species is a forest dweller and needs weak UVB with shade for the rest. Use a T5 UVB tube for shade-dwellers (Ferguson zone 1), e.g. 5-6%, in a reflective fitting above the land section and the basking spot.
FEEDING	The species is omnivorous and eats both animals and plants. Juveniles are fed every day or every other day, adults 2-3 times a week depending on body condition.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Cyclemys dentata* is shy and hides a great deal, and the species is not suited to handling. If you want contact, feed with tongs. Keep the animals singly, and provide plenty of hiding places and plants to avoid stress.
NATIVE RANGE	Bangladesh, Myanmar (Burma), Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Brunei and Philippines.