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TORTOISES AND TURTLES

Red-bellied Short-necked Turtle

Emydura subglobosa

Emydura subglobosa is a colourful, diurnal side-necked turtle from rivers, lagoons and swamps in southern New Guinea and northern Australia. It has a pink to red plastron and two yellow stripes on each side of the head. Females grow to 26 cm, and the species lives for at least 20-30 years, so it needs a large, filtered aquarium with a basking spot, heat and UVB.

Family: Chelidae Former name: *Emydura albertisii*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**13-26 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**20-30 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Semi-aquatic**
Habitat	**Wetland**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**130 × 65 × 60 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**26-29 °C**
Basking spot	**32-35 °C**
Temperature, night	**22-24 °C**
Humidity	**50-80%**
Water	**Aquaterrarium** depth 30-40 cm
Water temperature	**24-28 °C**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 2
Diet	**Insects, complete diet, plants, vertebrates and worms/snails**
Kept	**Singly**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**84-144 months**
Clutch size	**4-11 eggs**
Clutches per year	**2-4**
Incubation	**60-120 days** at 26-30 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Not listed**
EU annex	**Not listed**
IUCN	**Not Evaluated (NE)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	Keep the species in a large aquarium or tub, not in an ordinary terrarium.
TEMPERATURE	The water should be kept at 24-28 °C all year round, controlled by a thermostat and a heater that is protected against knocks.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	Humidity is governed by the water and needs no special regulation; the figure in the box applies to the air in a closed aquarium. What matters is that the basking spot is warm and dry, so that shell and skin can dry completely.
WATER AND WATER QUALITY	Turtles foul the water quickly. Use a powerful external filter rated for more than the aquarium's water volume, because filter capacities are stated for fish and are too optimistic for turtles.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The basking spot needs strong light, and UVB is recommended.
FEEDING	The species is omnivorous. The staple is a complete pelleted food for aquatic turtles, supplemented with insects, worms, crustaceans, purged snails, a little whole fish and aquatic plants or leafy greens.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Emydura subglobosa* is an active swimmer that feels safest in the water. It is an animal to watch, not to hold, even though many animals learn to take food from the hand.
NATIVE RANGE	Papua New Guinea, Indonesia and Australia.