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TORTOISES AND TURTLES

Elongated Tortoise

Indotestudo elongata

Indotestudo elongata is a medium-sized tortoise from forests and scrub in south-east Asia and north-eastern India. The shell is pale yellow with black blotches, and adults reach about 30 cm. The species is shy, most active at dawn and dusk, and needs warmth, high humidity and a water tub to bathe in. It is critically endangered in the wild, and only captive-bred animals can be kept responsibly.

Family: Testudinidae Former name: *Testudo elongata; Geochelone elongata*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**25-35 cm** total length incl. tail
Weight	**3,000-3,500 g**
Lifespan	**30-50 years**
Active	**At dusk**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial**
Habitat	**Dry forest and rainforest**
Difficulty	**Experienced**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**240 × 120 × 40 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**26-30 °C**
Basking spot	**30-32 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-20 °C**
Humidity	**70-85%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 2
Diet	**Fruit, plants, vertebrates and worms/snails**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**48-96 months**
Clutch size	**3-5 eggs**
Clutches per year	**1-2**
Incubation	**100-120 days** at 29 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	*Indotestudo elongata* needs a large, open floor area with a moist substrate and many hides. Floor area matters more than height. Indoors, an open tortoise table or a large plastic tub works best.
TEMPERATURE	The air should be 26-30 °C by day.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	Humidity should be high, about 70-85%, with a dry and a humid zone, so the animal can choose for itself. The substrate is moist but not wet, and the hides are dampened regularly.
LIGHTING AND UVB	*Indotestudo elongata* is a forest dweller and avoids strong light, but needs vitamin D3. The best solution is time outdoors in partial shade, where some sun gets through; glass and acrylic block UVB.
FEEDING	*Indotestudo elongata* is omnivorous with plants as the main component.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Indotestudo elongata* is shy and most active at dawn and dusk, but also becomes active after warm rain. The animal needs several hides and must not be disturbed all the time.
NATIVE RANGE	Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, India, Myanmar (Burma), Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Malaysia and China.