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TORTOISES AND TURTLES

Forest Hinge-back Tortoise

Kinixys erosa

Kinixys erosa is the largest of the hinge-back tortoises: a heavy, rust-brown rainforest tortoise with serrated shell margins and a movable hinge at the rear. The shell grows up to 33 cm long. The species lives in rainforest and swamp forest in West and Central Africa, needs high humidity and warmth, and is easily stressed. Newly imported animals often carry many parasites.

Family: Testudinidae Former name: *Testudo erosa; Kinixys castanea; Cinixys erosa*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**25-33 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**30-50 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial**
Habitat	**Rainforest and wetland**
Difficulty	**Experienced**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**240 × 120 × 60 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**28-30 °C**
Basking spot	**30-32 °C**
Temperature, night	**22-25 °C**
Humidity	**70-90%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 1
Diet	**Insects, fruit, plants and worms/snails**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**1-5 eggs**
Incubation	**130-160 days** at 30-31 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix II**
EU annex	**Annex B**
IUCN	**Data Deficient (DD)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	Little reliable knowledge exists on the care of *Kinixys erosa*, because the species is rarely kept and bred.
TEMPERATURE	The animal must be kept warm and even: 28-30 °C by day with a warmer zone of 30-32 °C, measured on the substrate, and 22-25 °C at night. The night temperature is an estimate based on the rainforest climate.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	*Kinixys erosa* requires high humidity: 70-90 %, and sick or newly imported animals are kept at at least 85 %. Mist regularly, so that the substrate and leaf litter are kept moist, and leave a damp hide with moss available.
LIGHTING AND UVB	*Kinixys erosa* comes from the forest floor and requires a low light level. The enclosure should not have strong lighting, and the animal must always be able to retreat into dark hides.
FEEDING	*Kinixys erosa* is omnivorous. The diet is fruit, fungi, leaves and greens plus a little animal food. Fruits such as banana, melon, tomato, papaya, peaches and cucumber are taken readily, especially red and orange ones.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The species is shy and withdraws into its shell or digs itself in when disturbed. It is most active early in the morning and spends much of the rest of the day in a dark hide or in the water.
NATIVE RANGE	Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo - Kinshasa, Congo - Brazzaville, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Togo and Uganda.