herpy

TORTOISES AND TURTLES

Home's Hinge-back Tortoise

Kinixys homeana

Kinixys homeana is a small West African tortoise with a low, angular shell and a movable hinge at the rear, which can close the shell over the hind legs and tail. The shell is just over 20 cm long. The species lives in moist forest and swampy areas, is most active at dusk and stresses easily. It is critically endangered in the wild, and little reliable information exists on its care.

Family: Testudinidae Former name: *Cinixys homeana; Kinixys belliana homeana*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**18-22 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**30-50 years**
Active	**At dusk**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial**
Habitat	**Rainforest and wetland**
Difficulty	**Experienced**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**160 × 80 × 40 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**28-30 °C**
Temperature, night	**22-24 °C**
Humidity	**70-90%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 2
Diet	**Insects, fruit, plants and worms/snails**
Kept	**Singly**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**3-7 eggs**
Incubation	**110-115 days** at 28-31 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix I**
EU annex	**Annex A**
IUCN	**Critically Endangered (CR)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	Little reliable information exists on the care of *Kinixys homeana*.
TEMPERATURE	By day the temperature should be 28-30 °C in most of the enclosure, and at night 22-24 °C. The night temperature is not documented for the species but suits a tropical lowland climate.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	As a forest species, *Kinixys homeana* needs more humidity than savanna species such as *Kinixys belliana*. Humidity should be 70-90 %, and newly imported or dehydrated animals need over 85 %.
LIGHTING AND UVB	*K. homeana* is most active at dusk and stresses in bright light. Lighting should be subdued, with plants and hides where the animal can withdraw from the light.
FEEDING	*K. homeana* is omnivorous, and young animals are almost exclusively carnivorous. The diet is roughly half plant material and half animal food.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The species is shy and withdraws into its shell or burrows when disturbed. It is most active early in the morning and late in the day and spends a lot of time buried in damp substrate.
NATIVE RANGE	Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Central African Republic and South Sudan.