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TORTOISES AND TURTLES

Asian Brown Tortoise

Manouria emys

Manouria emys is Asia's largest tortoise and one of the most primitive tortoises in existence. It lives in humid hill forest, grows to 50-60 cm and weighs up to 37 kg. The female builds a tall nest mound of leaves and guards it, which almost no other tortoise does. The species needs a very large, humid and shaded enclosure and is only for experienced keepers.

Family: Testudinidae Former name: *Testudo emys; Manouria fusca; Geochelone emys*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**40-60 cm** total length incl. tail
Weight	**20,000-37,000 g**
Lifespan	**20-100 years**
Active	**By day and at dusk**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial**
Habitat	**Rainforest and montane forest**
Difficulty	**Expert**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**500 × 400 × 60 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**18-25 °C**
Basking spot	**26-29 °C**
Temperature, night	**15-18 °C**
Humidity	**80-99%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Essential** Ferguson zone 2
Diet	**Plants**
Kept	**Singly or in groups**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**120-180 months**
Clutch size	**15-74 eggs**
Clutches per year	**1**
Incubation	**60-100 days** at 26-29 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	The species is so large that an ordinary terrarium is not an option for adult animals. One adult needs an enclosure of at least 20 m², for example 500 × 400 cm, and 5 m² should be added for each additional animal.
TEMPERATURE	*Manouria emys* tolerates 13-30 °C and is more cold-tolerant than most tropical tortoises. It must not, however, be kept below 10 °C or above 35 °C for any length of time.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	The species is a rainforest tortoise and needs very high humidity: 80-99 % is best, and it must never fall below 60 %. Keep the substrate moist, mist often, and make humid shelters of wet soil, moss and live plants.
WATER AND WATER QUALITY	There must always be clean drinking water in a bath large enough for the animal to sit in.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species lives under the canopy and needs subdued light with shade, but UVB is essential for its health.
FEEDING	*Manouria emys* is herbivorous, with a large element of fungi and a little animal food.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The species is curious and relatively tame, but it should only be picked up when necessary. Handling causes stress, and the animal may urinate out of fear and thereby lose fluid, especially when small.
NATIVE RANGE	Bangladesh, India, Myanmar (Burma), Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia.