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TORTOISES AND TURTLES

Impressed Tortoise

Manouria impressa

Manouria impressa is a rare, shy tortoise from the cool, rain-soaked bamboo and evergreen mountain forests of South-East Asia. It lives almost entirely on fungi and spends most of its time hidden in the leaf litter. It is among the most difficult tortoises to keep and requires a lot of space, constant humidity and a cool climate.

Family: Testudinidae Former name: *Geoemyda impressa*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**25-31 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**20-40 years**
Active	**At dusk**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial**
Habitat	**Montane forest**
Difficulty	**Expert**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**150 × 150 × 60 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**21-27 °C**
Temperature, night	**12-18 °C**
Humidity	**70-100%**
Water	**Water section**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 1
Diet	**Complete diet and plants**
Kept	**Singly, in pairs or one male with several females**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**10-20 eggs**
Incubation	**64-79 days** at 26.6-30 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

Manouria impressa is very demanding, but does well when its requirements for climate, humidity and food are met. If you are inexperienced with tortoises, the species is not a good choice.

TEMPERATURE

By day the temperature should be 21-27 °C, and at night 12-18 °C. The species is adapted to a cool mountain climate and does not need a heat lamp or a basking spot.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

Humidity should be 70-100% and never below 65%. It is the single most important factor in care, and dehydration is a frequent cause of loss of appetite and illness.

LIGHTING AND UVB

The tortoise lives in deep shade and does not bask in the wild. Even so, animals kept indoors need UV light from a quality tube during the daytime.

FEEDING

Manouria impressa is a fungus eater: in the wild the diet consists almost solely of fungi, and fungi are also the main food in captivity.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

Manouria impressa is shy and hides most of the time in the leaves, often with only the head showing. It is most active at dusk and after rain. It should be handled only when necessary, for example for weighing.

NATIVE RANGE

Thailand, Myanmar (Burma), Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Malaysia, India and China.