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TORTOISES AND TURTLES

Chinese Stripe-necked Turtle

Mauremys sinensis

Mauremys sinensis is a diurnal, semi-aquatic turtle from southern China, Taiwan, Laos and northern Vietnam with yellow stripes on the head and neck. The shell grows to 20-30 cm, and the animal can live about 30 years. The species is critically endangered in the wild and needs a large, filtered aquarium with a dry land section, a warm basking spot and UVB.

Family: Geoemydidae Former name: *Ocadia sinensis; Emys sinensis*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**20-30 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**20-30 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Semi-aquatic**
Habitat	**Wetland**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**150 × 75 × 70 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**26-30 °C**
Basking spot	**30-35 °C**
Temperature, night	**20-24 °C**
Humidity	**50-80%**
Water	**Aquaterrarium** depth 30-40 cm
Water temperature	**22-27 °C**
UVB	**Essential** Ferguson zone 3
Diet	**Insects, complete diet, plants, vertebrates and worms/snails**
Kept	**Singly or in groups**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**5-20 eggs**
Incubation	**60-75 days** at 26-29 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix III**
EU annex	**Annex C**
IUCN	**Critically Endangered (CR)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	Keep the animal in an aquarium, a large tub or a secure indoor pond, not in an ordinary terrarium.
TEMPERATURE	The surface of the basking spot should be 30-35 °C, measured with an infrared thermometer a couple of hours after the lamps are switched on, and the air above it 27-30 °C.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	The turtle's humidity is the water itself, so the relative humidity of the air is not documented in detail for the species; 50-80 % in the room is plenty.
WATER AND WATER QUALITY	The water is the animal's living space, so it must be deep, clean and warm. The water must be at least twice as deep as the shell is wide, and 30-40 cm suits adults. The temperature is 22-27 °C (see Temperature).
LIGHTING AND UVB	UVB is a necessity. The species is diurnal and sits for a long time at the basking spot. Use a T5 HO tube with a reflector over the basking spot, so that the animal gets UVB when it dries off.
FEEDING	*M. sinensis* is omnivorous. In the wild adults eat many plants, but also carrion and small animals such as shrimp, small fish, water snails and mosquito larvae. The turtle eats only in the water, so throw the food into the tub.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*M. sinensis* is diurnal and inquisitive and quickly learns to associate you with food. Most animals do not like being touched.
NATIVE RANGE	China, Taiwan, Vietnam and Laos.