herpy

TORTOISES AND TURTLES

Brown Roofed Turtle

Pangshura smithii

Pangshura smithii is a small to medium-sized, flat-backed freshwater turtle from rivers, ponds and swamps in the Indus, Ganges and Brahmaputra systems of South Asia. The carapace is olive-brown with a faint, dark keel, and the plastron is dark with a yellow edge. The species basks several times a day, is omnivorous and is rarely kept in captivity, so little is known about its care.

Family: Geoemydidae Former name: *Batagur smithii; Clemmys smithii; Kachuga smithii*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**15-22 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**25-50 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Semi-aquatic**
Habitat	**Wetland**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**120 × 60 × 60 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**24-29 °C**
Basking spot	**30-35 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-22 °C**
Humidity	**50-80%**
Water	**Aquaterrarium** depth 25-30 cm
Water temperature	**24-28 °C**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 2
Diet	**Insects, complete diet, plants and worms/snails**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**3-10 eggs**
Incubation	**70-90 days** at 26-29 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix II**
EU annex	**Annex B**
IUCN	**Near Threatened (NT)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

Little is known about keeping *Pangshura smithii*, and the species is rarely kept. It is kept like other small and medium-sized Asian freshwater turtles that live in the water and regularly come onto land to bask and dry off.

TEMPERATURE

By day the air should be 24-29 °C and the water 24-28 °C. Over the land area a heat lamp provides a basking spot of 30-35 °C, measured on the surface with an IR thermometer. At night the air can drop to 18-22 °C.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

Humidity should be 50-80%. The figure is an estimate that follows from a large water surface and a lightly ventilated lid. *Pangshura smithii* lives in the water and must always have clean water to drink and live in.

WATER AND WATER QUALITY

The water should be 24-28 °C and about twice as deep as the shell is wide: 25-30 cm for adults. The animal must always be able to reach the surface and right itself if it ends up on its back.

LIGHTING AND UVB

Pangshura smithii basks several times a day and is entirely diurnal. The UVB requirement is not documented, but weak to moderate UVB (Ferguson zone 2) over the basking spot is recommended.

FEEDING

Pangshura smithii is omnivorous. Adults can be given a mix of low-fat commercial aquatic turtle food, earthworms, water snails, insects and small fish, as well as aquatic plants such as duckweed and water lettuce.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

Pangshura smithii is diurnal and often comes onto land to bask. Asian freshwater turtles of this type can usually be kept together, but males may be incompatible.

NATIVE RANGE

Pakistan, India, Bangladesh and Nepal.