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TORTOISES AND TURTLES

Black Marsh Turtle

Siebenrockiella crassicollis

Siebenrockiella crassicollis is an almost entirely black, bottom-dwelling marsh turtle from still, overgrown waters in South-East Asia. It has a thick neck and pale jaws that curve upwards, so it appears to smile, and the pale head spots fade in males with age. The species is shy, nocturnal, relatively small and very long-lived, but it is threatened in the wild.

Family: Geoemydidae Former name: *Emys crassicollis; Bellia crassicollis; Pangshura cochinchinensis*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**13-20 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**40-60 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Semi-aquatic**
Habitat	**Wetland**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**100 × 50 × 50 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**22-27 °C**
Basking spot	**30-32 °C**
Temperature, night	**20-24 °C**
Humidity	**70-90%**
Water	**Aquaterrarium** depth 15-25 cm
Water temperature	**22-26 °C**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 1
Diet	**Insects, fruit, plants, vertebrates and worms/snails**
Kept	**Singly, in pairs or in groups**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**60 months**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Clutches per year	**3-4**
Incubation	**68-84 days** at 29-30 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	*Siebenrockiella crassicollis* can live and breed in captivity for decades, but it is rare in the hobby. Wild-caught animals are difficult to get to settle into captivity, and captive-bred animals are far preferable.
TEMPERATURE	*Siebenrockiella crassicollis* needs 22-27 °C in the air by day and 20-24 °C at night. The water should be 22-26 °C.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	Humidity above the water should be high, 70-90%. The figure is an estimate that suits the tropical wetlands *Siebenrockiella crassicollis* comes from.
WATER AND WATER QUALITY	The water for *Siebenrockiella crassicollis* should be 15-25 cm deep and 22-26 °C. The species is a bottom walker and not a good swimmer, so it must be able to reach the surface easily from the bottom.
LIGHTING AND UVB	*Siebenrockiella crassicollis* is nocturnal, but likes to lie under the heat lamp on land and basks occasionally. The UVB requirement is not documented.
FEEDING	*Siebenrockiella crassicollis* is omnivorous with an emphasis on animal food and eats almost only in the water; it drags food on land down into the water.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Siebenrockiella crassicollis* is shy and quiet and does not become aggressive towards humans. It hides a lot, buries itself and is most active at night. When the animals meet, they sniff each other's head and forelegs.
NATIVE RANGE	Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Myanmar (Burma), Malaysia and Indonesia.