South African Bowsprit Tortoise

Chersina angulata

Chersina angulata is a medium-sized, domed tortoise from the coastal and scrub regions of South Africa. It is recognised by the large, projecting shield under the chin (the gular scute), which males use to overturn rivals. The shell length is typically 17-19 cm. It is hardy in its own Mediterranean-type climate, but copes poorly with cold and damp and needs plenty of space, sun and dry, sandy ground.

Famille: Testudinidae Ancien nom: *Testudo angulata; Testudo bellii; Goniochersus angulatus; Neotestudo angulata; Chersine angulata*

INFORMATIONS ESSENTIELLES

L'ANIMAL

Taille adulte	**15-35 cm** longueur totale queue comprise
Espérance de vie	**30-50 ans**
Activité	**Le jour**
Mode de vie	**Terrestre**
Habitat	**Semi-désert**
Difficulté	**Expérimenté**

ENTRETIEN

Terrarium min.	**160 × 80 × 40 cm** L × l × H pour 1 adulte
Température, jour	**22-28 °C**
Zone de bain de soleil	**32-35 °C**
Température, nuit	**12-18 °C**
Hygrométrie	**40-60 %**
Eau	**Gamelle d'eau**
UVB	**Indispensables** Zone de Ferguson 3
Alimentation	**Insectes et plantes**
Détention	**Seul ou en couple**

REPRODUCTION

Reproduction	**Ovipare**
Maturité sexuelle	**120-144 mois**
Taille de la ponte	**1-2 œufs**
Pontes par an	**1-6**
Incubation	**94-198 jours** à 28-30 °C

PROTECTION ET FORMALITÉS

CITES	**Annexe II**
Annexe UE	**Annexe B**
UICN	**Préoccupation mineure (LC)**

L'entretien en bref

LE TERRARIUM	Little published knowledge exists on the care of *Chersina angulata* outside South Africa.
TEMPÉRATURE	By day the enclosure should be 22-28 °C, with a basking spot of 32-35 °C under a lamp, measured on the substrate. The figures are estimated from the climate of the habitat and borrowed from *T. hermanni*.
HYGROMÉTRIE ET EAU	*C. angulata* belongs to dry to semi-dry habitats and needs a humidity of 40-60 %; the figure is an estimate based on the habitat. Keep most of the substrate dry and make a slightly damper corner under a shelter.
ÉCLAIRAGE ET UVB	*C. angulata* is diurnal and basks a great deal. Sunlight is best, and the animal should be outside in the sun whenever the weather allows.
ALIMENTATION	In the wild herbs and grasses are the most important food, and the animal also eats moss, fungi, insects, snail shells and droppings. It feeds selectively and changes its food with the season.
COMPORTEMENT ET MANIPULATION	The species is shy and withdraws under bushes or half-buries itself.
AIRE D'ORIGINE	Afrique du Sud et Namibie.