West African Mud Turtle

Pelusios castaneus

Pelusios castaneus is a medium-sized turtle from western and central Africa. The shell grows to 18-28 cm, and the species can live 30-50 years. It is hardy, active and greedy and needs a large, filtered tank with warm water, a warm basking spot and UVB. The animals draw the head in sideways under the rim of the shell, and the males chase the females hard.

Família: Pelomedusidae Nome anterior: *Emys castanea; Pelusios derbianus; Pelusios seychellensis*

DADOS PRINCIPAIS

O ANIMAL

Tamanho adulto	**18-28 cm** comprimento total com a cauda
Longevidade	**30-50 anos**
Ativo	**De dia e à noite**
Estilo de vida	**Semiaquático**
Habitat	**Savana, floresta tropical e área úmida**
Dificuldade	**Intermediário**

CUIDADOS

Terrário mín.	**150 × 75 × 50 cm** C × L × A para 1 adulto
Temperatura, dia	**24-29 °C**
Ponto quente	**32-36 °C**
Temperatura, noite	**20-24 °C**
Umidade	**50-80%**
Água	**Aquaterrário** profundidade 15-25 cm
Temperatura da água	**24-27 °C**
UVB	**Essencial** Zona de Ferguson 3
Alimentação	**Insetos, ração completa, plantas, vertebrados e minhocas/caracóis**
Mantido	**Sozinho ou um macho com várias fêmeas**

REPRODUÇÃO

Reprodução	**Ovíparo**
Tamanho da postura	**11-27 ovos**
Posturas por ano	**1-2**
Incubação	**53-75 dias** a 27-31 °C

PROTEÇÃO E DOCUMENTAÇÃO

CITES	**Não listado**
Anexo da UE	**Não listado**
IUCN	**Não avaliado (NE)**

Resumo dos cuidados

O TERRÁRIO	Keep the animal in a large aquarium or a tub, not in an ordinary terrarium. The tank must be at least five times as long as the shell and half as wide as it is long, with the land area counted as part of the floor area.
TEMPERATURA	The water must be 24-27 °C. Warmer water makes the animal restless, and in cooler water it loses its appetite and seeks warmth. A water heater behind a plastic guard is normally necessary, unless the room is warm enough.
UMIDADE E ÁGUA	Air humidity matters little for an aquatic turtle; 50-80 % in the room is suitable. The air above the tank must be warm and free of draughts, because cold, damp air increases the risk of respiratory infections.
ÁGUA E QUALIDADE DA ÁGUA	The water must be kept clean, because the species does not shed its scutes, so dirt stays on the shell. Water depth is 15-25 cm for adults, preferably gradually sloping, and about 10 cm for hatchlings.
ILUMINAÇÃO E UVB	UVB is necessary for vitamin D3 and calcium absorption, and it also inhibits bacteria on the shell. Adults bask a lot, so there must be a dry, warm basking spot with a powerful lamp, and young must also have a basking spot.
ALIMENTAÇÃO	*Pelusios castaneus* is omnivorous, but leans strongly towards meat. In the wild it eats crustaceans, insects, fish, shrimps, crabs and large snails as well as a little vegetation such as water lettuce and seeds.
COMPORTAMENTO E MANUSEIO	*Pelusios castaneus* is calm, curious and active. The animals usually withdraw when handled, rarely bite, but can scratch with the sharp claws to get free.
ÁREA DE OCORRÊNCIA NATURAL	Senegal, Gâmbia, Guiné-Bissau, Guiné, Serra Leoa, Libéria, Costa do Marfim, Burquina Faso, Mali, Gana, Togo, Benin, Nigéria, Camarões, Guiné Equatorial, Gabão, República do Congo, Congo - Kinshasa, Angola, República Centro-Africana e São Tomé e Príncipe.