

Pro Wildlife

Loefflerstr. 5a, 80999 Munich, Germany, Tel.: 0049-89-81299-507, Fax: -706

Asian box turtles (*Cuora* spp.)

Asian box turtles have a very low reproduction rate, which makes this genus highly sensitive for over-exploitation. Some of these species are only known from food markets with no data concerning their habitat or population size

| Species | Countries of Origin | Biological Data | Extent of Trade | Population Trends |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <i>Cuora amboinensis</i> (1802) Malaysian box turtle | Indonesia, Malaysia, Laos, Myanmar, Bangladesh, China, Thailand, Philippines, Vietnam, Eastern India, Cambodia, Singapur | 1 to 5 eggs/nest, several nests per year; incubation period about 76 days | High level of exploitation for national and international trade (food, TCM, souvenirs) | Declining populations (<i>Lehr, 1997; Thirakhupt & van Dijk, 1997</i>) Red data book of Vietnam (1992): " vulnerable " IUCN (1996): " near threatened " |
| <i>Cuora aurocapitata</i> (1988) Golden-headed box turtle | China (Anhui), found in Namling County, Yixian, Guande, Jingxian | Low reproduction rate in captivity (3 to 6 eggs, once a year) | One of the most requested and most expensive species in the Chinese food markets (up to 900 US \$ / animal) | Populations rapidly decreasing (<i>Meier, 1998</i>) Red data book of China (1998): " critically endangered " IUCN (1996): " data deficient " |
| <i>Cuora flavomarginata</i> (1863) Chinese box turtle | China (Anhui, Fujian, Henan, Jiangsu, Hunan, Szechnan, Shanghai, Taiwan), Japanese Riu Kiu Islands | Low reproduction rate in captivity (1 to 4 eggs/nest, once a year) | High level of exploitation in China and Hong Kong, offered in decreasing numbers | Populations obviously declining Red data book of China (1998): " endangered " IUCN: " vulnerable " |
| <i>Cuora galbinifrons</i> (1939) Flowerback box turtle | Vietnam, China (Guangxi and Hainan), Southeast Laos | Low reproduction rate in captivity (2 eggs/nest, once a year) | High level of exploitation for national and international trade; Offered in decreasing numbers | Declining populations (<i>Lehr, 1996</i>) Red data book of Vietnam (1992): " vulnerable " Red data book of China (1998): " endangered " IUCN (1996): " near threatened " |
| <i>Cuora mccordi</i> (1988) Mc Cord's box turtle | Only discovered on Chinese markets (Guangxi), no data on natural habitat | no data | Offered in Chinese markets (up to now only about 100 animals have been observed) | Rapidly declining populations (<i>Behler, 1997; Meier, 1998</i>); Red Data Book of China (1998) and IUCN (1996): " data deficient " |
| <i>Cuora trifasciata</i> (1825) Three-striped box turtle | China (Guangxi, Fujian, Guangdong, Hainan), Northern Vietnam, maybe also in Laos and Cambodia | Low reproduction rate (2 to 6 eggs/nest), once a year | Most expensive and requested turtle in the Chinese markets (up to 3,000 US \$/ animals) | Rapidly declining populations; (<i>Pritchard, 1997</i>) Red data book of China (1998): " critically endangered " Red data book of Vietnam (1992): " vulnerable " IUCN (1996): " endangered " |
| <i>Cuora yunnanensis</i> (1906) Yunnan box turtle | Only known from a few specimen in museums | No data | No hints for trade, maybe already extinct | Red data book of China (1998): " maybe already extinct " IUCN (1996): " data deficient " |
| <i>Cuora zhoui</i> (1990) Zhou's box turtle | Only discovered on markets in China (Yunnan, Guangxi) | Low reproduction rate in captivity (up to 5 eggs/nest, once a year) | One of the most requested and expensive species in the Chinese markets (up to 800 US \$) | Rapidly declining populations (<i>Behler, 1997; Meier, 1998</i>); Red Data Book of China (1998) and IUCN (1996): " data deficient " |