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# Juin 2018

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### Chers collègues et amis,

Les temps changent, les **journées techniques cistude** se sont tenues du 22 au 24 novembre 2017. Pour la 1<sup>ère</sup> fois, je n'y étais pas invité de même que Cornélius de Haan qui se trouve encore moins loin de Toulouse, que moi... Le mystère des listings à trous... Un débat a eu lieu, les anciens responsables du Groupe Cistude de la SHF(GK) n'ont pas souhaité se maintenir et une nouvelle équipe s'est formée, avec Stéphanie Thienpont, qui avait porté le 1<sup>er</sup> PNA, comme responsable du GK.

Dans cette 29<sup>ème</sup> lettre, un rappel historique, **la Lettre N°2 du GK de mai 1992** avec cet interview de Claude Pieau (que j'écrivais Piau, excuse-moi, Claude) sur les « super cistudes » plutôt, à la réflexion : « super nanas », la féminisation en Brenne, en « marche » : 2 femelles pour un mâle... Féminisation relayée et actualisée par l'article sur les tortues vertes de la Grande barrière de corail d'Australie, domination des femelles à cause cette fois du réchauffement climatique, la température d'incubation des œufs, dépassant régulièrement 29°C, seuil de leur détermination sexuelle. La survie des mâles est posée ainsi que l'extinction radicale des populations...

Vous lirez également un projet de concours de photos « tortues », un Symposium sur la Conservation des tortues d'eau douce va se tenir à Cleveland dans l'Ohio du 7 au 11 octobre 2018 avis aux contributeurs et aux voyageurs, la liste des 27 espèces de « tortoises » et tortues d'eau douce les plus menacées de la planète, une tortue « punk » australienne à respiration cloacale... Saisie record à Madagascar, (qui interpelle sur la folie furieuse de l'espèce humaine à vouloir anéantir la planète) : **11,000 tortues rayonnées** (*Astrochelys radiata*), 900 sont déjà mortes d'infection virale...

Bon courage à tous pour les travaux de printemps et bonne lecture



Alain Veysset, rédacteur

Cistude parure d'or du bassin de Latone, mère d'Apollon, parc du château de Versailles.

## Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Times are changing, the **Technical Emys Days** were hold from the 22th to the 24<sup>th</sup> of November 2017. For the first time I wasn't invited so like Cornélius de Haan who is nearer to Toulouse than me ... The mystery of the listings with gaps... A debat took place, the former persons in charge of the "Cistude Group of the SHF" (GK) didn't wish to remain and a new staff was formed with Stéphanie Thienpont who brought the first National Action Plan responsible for the GK.

In this 29th Letter, an historical reminder : the **GK letter N°2 from May 1992** with the interview of Claude Pieau (I wrote Piau, excuse me Claude...) on the « super cistudes » rather on second thoughts : « total babe » the feminisation forward in Brenne : two females for one male... Feminisation taken over and up dated by the article on green sea turtles of the Australia's Great Barrier Reef, domination of females due for that case, to global warming : incubation temperatures above 29°C produce more female offspring. there is a question of the males survival and the radical extinction of these species...

You can also read a project of turtles-WCS turtle photo contest, a freshwater turtle conservation Symposium at TWS, Cleveland, Ohio from October 7-11, 2018, public notice to the presenters and the travellers, the list of the 27 most threatened tortoise and freshwater tortoise species in the world, a green-haired punk Autralian turtle that can breathe through its genitals... Record seizure at Madagascar (which questions on the stark raving madness of human species to wish the ruin of the Earth...) of nearly **11,000 Radiated Tortoises** (*Astrochelys radiata*), 900 are soon dead by a viral infection.

Good luck everybody for your spring activities, enjoy reading

Alain Veysset, redactor

Mummy and child for the 2018 mother's day



#### GK N°2 p.1 Mai 1992



#### Chers Amis,

En attente de contributions cette lettre, 2ème du genre, ne vous parviendra que début Mai. Toutefois, son contenu vous intéressera, je le souhaite, et ouvre le débat sur les diverses questions soulevées :

- Quelle protection envisagée ? (Article GH. PARENT) dans le Livre Rouge des espèces menacées.
- La Cistude à l'heure de l'Europe de 92.
- Interview de Claude PIAU "A la recherche des Super-Cistudes.."

C'est le momment pour les observateurs de partir à l'affut, notre animal "préféré" se réveille après l'hibernation, profitons-en tous pour suivre son évolution.

A Bientôt

Alain VEYSSET.

Interview : C. PIAU

#### "A LA RECHERCHE DES SUPER CISTUDES"

I/ - Que cherchez-vous sur les Cistudes ?

C.P. : "Essentiellement l'influence de la température sur la différenciation sexuelle des gonades (dans la vie embryonnaire) des cistudes.

Deux grands aspects, tout d'abord quel est l'impact du phénomène sur l'évolution du sex-ratio dans la nature (la dynamique des populations) et ensuite quel est le mécanisme qui suit l'action de la température pour les cellules et les mollécules - L'expérience prouve que la température agit sur la synthèse des hormones stéroïdes secrétées par les gonades.

Quand la température est élevée les gonades se transforment en ovaire, en dessous du seuil d'hormones oestrogènes, en exogonades, testicules de mâle. L'intervalle critique est de 28 à 29° C.

II/ - Dans la Brenne, limite Nord de la répartition, on se serait attendu à trouver plus de mâles que de femelles - Hors, ce n'est pas le cas, comment l'expliquez-vous ?

C.P.: "En fait la déviation se fait en faveur des femelles : 2 pour 1 mâle. Ce résultat surprenant s'explique pour 2 raisons. Premièrement, des facteurs écologiques et climatiques,  $\mathbf{p4}$ 

. . . / . . .

seules les années exceptionnelles chaudes et sèches permettent aux embryons d'arriver à terme, donc de produire nombre de femelles alors que pour les étés frais, peu d'embryons, donc peu de mâles. Le deuxième facteur est lié à l'interaction de la température sur le déterminisme génétique . Comme chez les oiseaux le mâle ZZ est homogamètique, la femelle hétérogamétique ZW (c'est l'inverse chez les humainsXY mâle). On aboutit dans certains cas à des femelles WW, super-femelles, plus résistantes aux températures dont la descendance est toujours femelle, donc un enrichissement en femelles génétiques de la population.

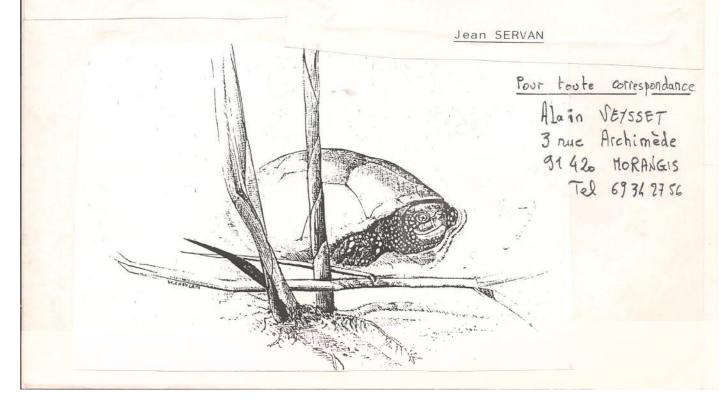
- III- Depuis combien de temps travailles-vous sur ce sujet ?
  - C.P. : "La découverte du phénomène de la température date de 1971, j'ai été le premier à le démontrer chez la tortue, en publiant une note à l'Académie. Chez les amphibiens cela remonte à 1929 et même avant".

A... suivre... dans la future lettre Nº3

"A la recherche de la protection..."

La Cistude dans la future directive européenne sur les habitats :

Actuellement un projet de Directive de la CEE sur la protection des habitats, est en discussion. Les habitats à protéger seront choisis notamment en fonction d'espèces rares, endémiques ou menacées. La cistude figure sur cette liste.



How to Stop Sex Changes in Turtles on the Great Barrier Reef-Climate change led to more female eggs, so scientists are trying to ensure males are made in the shade: p6

by Anita Rita Patricia, The Conversation US, 1/17/18

Credit: <u>Alaina McDavid Flickr</u> (<u>CC BY-SA 2.0</u>)

The following essay is reprinted with permission from <u>The Conversation</u>, an online publication covering the latest research.

In the northern part of Australia's Great Barrier Reef, the future for green sea turtles appears to be turning female.

A recent <u>study</u> has revealed that climate change is rapidly leading to the feminisation of green turtles in one of the world's largest populations. Only about 1% of these juvenile turtles are hatching male.

Among sea turtles, incubation temperatures above 29°C produce more female offspring. When incubation temperatures approach 33°C, 100% of the offspring are female. Cooler temperatures yield more males, up to 100% near a lower thermal limit of 23°C. And if eggs incubate at temperatures outside the range of 23-33°C the risk of embryo malformation and mortality becomes very high. As current climate change models foresee increases in average global temperature of <u>2 to 3°C by 2100</u>, the future for these turtles is in danger. Worryingly, warmer temperatures will also lead to ocean expansion and sea-level rise, increasing the risk of flooding of nesting habitats.

# HOW SCIENTISTS ARE TACKLING THE PROBLEM

Green sea turtles' sensitivity to incubation temperatures is such that even a few degrees can dramatically change the sex ratio of hatchlings.

Sea turtles are particularly vulnerable because they have temperature-dependent sex determination, or TSD, meaning that the sex of the offspring depends on the incubation temperature of the eggs. This is the same mechanism that determines the sex of several other reptile species, such as the crocodilians, many lizards and freshwater turtles.

Scientists and conservationists are well aware of how future temperatures may threaten these species. For the past two decades they have been investigating the incubation conditions and resulting sex ratios at several sea turtle nesting beaches worldwide.

This is mostly done using temperature recording devices (roughly the size of an egg). These are placed inside nest chambers among the clutch of eggs, or buried in the sand at the same depth as the eggs. When a clutch hatches (after 50 to 60 days) the device is recovered and the temperatures recorded are analysed.

Research has revealed that most nesting beaches studied to date have sand temperatures that <u>favour</u> <u>female hatchling</u> production. But this female bias is not immediately a bad thing, because male sea turtles can mate with several females (polygyny). So having more females actually enhances the reproductive potential of a population (i.e. more females equals more eggs).

But given that climate change will likely soon increase this female bias, important questions arise. How much of a female bias is OK? Will there be enough males? What is the minimum proportion of males to keep a sustainable population?

These questions are being investigated. But, in the meantime, alarming reports of populations with more than <u>99% of hatchlings being female</u> stress the urgency of science-based management strategies. These strategies must be designed to promote (or maintain) cooler incubation temperatures at key nesting beaches to prevent population decline or even extinction.

There are two general approaches to the problem:

1 mitigate impacts at the most endangered nesting beaches

2 identify and protect sites that naturally produce higher proportions of males.

Several studies emphasise that the natural shading native vegetation provides is essential to maintain cooler incubation temperatures. Thus, a key conservation action is to protect beach vegetation, or reforest nesting beaches.

Coastal vegetation also protects the nesting beach against wave erosion during storms, which will worsen under climate change. This strategy further requires coastal development to allow for buffer zones. Construction setback regulations should be enforced or implemented.

When natural shading is not an option, clutches of eggs can be moved either to more suitable beaches, or to hatcheries with artificial shading. Researchers have tested the use of <u>synthetic shade</u> <u>cloth</u> and found it is <u>effective</u> in reducing sand and nest temperatures.

Other potential strategies involve adding light-coloured sand on top of nests. This can help by absorbing less solar radiation (heat) <u>compared</u> to darker sand. Beach sprinklers have also been tested to simulate the cooling effect of rainfall.

The effectiveness of these actions has yet to be fully tested, but there is concern about some potential negative side effects. For example, excess water from sprinklers may cause fungal infections on eggs.

Finally, as much as mitigation measures are important, these are always short-term solutions. In the long run, prevention is always the best strategy, i.e. protecting the nesting beaches that currently produce more males from deforestation, development and habitat degradation.

Our recent research on the largest green turtle population in Africa reports unusually high male hatchling production. We found almost <u>balanced hatchling sex ratios</u> (1 female to 1.2 males). We attributed this mostly to the cooling effect of the native forest.

This, and similar nesting beaches, should be designated as priority conservation sites, as they will be key to ensuring the future of sea turtles under projected global warming scenarios.

Sea turtles are resilient creatures. They have been around for over 200 million years, surviving the mass extinction that included the dinosaurs, and enduring dramatic climatic changes in the past.

There is potential for these creatures to adapt, as they did before. This could be through, for example, shifting the timing of nesting to cooler periods, changing their distribution to more suitable habitats, or evolution of critical incubation temperatures that produce males.

But the climate today is changing at an unprecedented rate. Along with the feminisation of these turtles in the northern Great Barrier Reef, sea turtles globally face many threats from humans. These include problems associated with by-catch, poaching, habitat degradation and coastal development, plus a history of intense human exploitation.

In 2018, the prevalence of these species depends now more than ever on the effectiveness of conservation measures.



Julie Larsen Maher ©WCS Go to <u>http://blog.wcs.org/photo/assignments/time-for-turtles-photo-contest/</u> for specific instructions on how to enter Deadline is 2/12/18 for only 11 days left to enter -

Turtles are often depicted as tranquil creatures possessing wisdom and longevity. They are indeed ancient survivors with a fossil record dating back over 200 million years.

But today, more than half of the world's freshwater turtles and tortoises are on the brink (critically endangered golden coin turtle hatchling, right). Pollution, hunting, habitat destruction, and over-collection are contributing to their decline.

Let's raise awareness to the plight of these reptiles through photos. Send us your best shots of turtles and tortoises to share with the world.

Our editorial team will choose the best submissions based on appeal, composition, originality, and technical quality. A group of chosen shots for this assignment will be posted on this page and one will be featured.

We can consider a maximum of four submissions per contributor.

NOTE: For this assignment, we're offering an incentive. The author of the featured photo chosen by our editorial team will receive a Patagonia Refugio Pack, perfect for transporting your gear to the office, the crag, or the beach. See the official <u>Contest Rules.</u> 25 Nov 2017

# Rencontres Techniques Cistude 22-23-24 novembre 2017 :

Le Mercredi 22 avaient lieu les Rencontres techniques Cistude régionales à Toulouse organisées par Nature Midi-Pyrénées et le Conservatoire des Espaces Naturels du Languedoc-Roussillon. Cette journée était l'occasion de réunir les acteurs de la Région Occitanie qui interviennent sur la préservation de la Cistude d'Europe. L'idée était de pouvoir échanger sur les actions mises en place et les retours d'expérience. L'ADASEA du Gers a participé à cette journée avec une trentaine d'autres personnes de structures diverses.



Liste des présentations :

- Contribution d'un EPTB à la connaissance Serge CUDENNEC (EPTB Vistre)
- Etat des connaissances en Occitanie Olivier Scher et Laurent BARTHE (CEN L-R et NMP)
- **Programme de réintroduction en Languedoc-Roussillon** Marc CHEYLAN (CNRS/EPHE Montpellier)
- La méthode de site occupancy Laurent Barthe (NMP)
- Actions de l'ADASEA32 en faveur de la préservation de la Cistude dans le Gers : exemple de la CATZH et des MAEC - Sophie Hurtes (ADASEA du Gers).

Jeudi, les animateurs du PNA (CEN Savoie et Stéphanie Thienpont) présentaient le bilan du premier Plan National d'Actions (connaissances, conservation et bilan financier) ainsi que le prochain PNA qui devrait voir le jour en 2018 pour la période 2019-2023.

Ensuite, différentes présentations et débats ont illustré des actions menées au cours de ce premier PNA pour améliorer les connaissances de l'espèce.

- PNA Émyde lépreuse (autre espèce de tortue aquatique présente dans les Pyrénées Orientales et l'Aude) - Lionel Courmont (Groupe Ornithologique du Roussillon)
- Suivis télémétriques Jean-Yves Georges (IPHC, Université de Strasbourg, CNRS)
- Capture Marguage Recapture Marc Cheylan, Pauline Priol
- ADN expérimental, retour d'expérience en Basse-Durance Cédric Roy (CEN PACA)
- Tortues de Floride et autres tortues exogènes
- Évaluation de l'état de conservation de la Cistude d'Europe dans le cadre de la révision du DOCOB des « Étangs de l'Armagnac ». - Aurélie Belvèze et Hugo Girard (ADASEA du Gers)
- Compensation d'habitat de la Cistude suite à la LGV Olivier Scher (CEN L-R)
- Réglementation, que faire des tortues ramassées et rapportées ailleurs -André Miguet (CEN Savoie)
- Réintroduction et retours d'expérience André Miguet, Jean-Yves Scher

# Remarques

La Cistude d'Europe, présente déjà à l'âge de bronze sur plusieurs sites archéologiques, a fait l'objet de nombreuses études ces dernières années, ce qui a contribué à une large amélioration des connaissances. Aussi, les financeurs envisagent à l'avenir de limiter le financement d'études et de cibler plutôt des actions de gestion. Cette espèce est bien présente dans le département du Gers avec un gradient où les effectifs diminuent de l'Ouest vers l'Est. De manière générale la population de Cistude tend à diminuer et semble être vieillissante.

Les débats ont été variés : méthodes de captures, marquages, évolution des techniques de suivis, gestion des tortues exotiques, parasitisme... Il a été signalé l'arrivée de la tortue Serpentine qui semble bien s'acclimater dans la Région et se reproduire. Son expansion risque de poser de sérieux problèmes vis-à-vis de la biodiversité. De par sa voracité et sa dangerosité elle peut devenir problématique sur certains sites.

Les discussions autour de la réglementation et des réintroductions ont mis en avant l'importance de ne pas déplacer les individus sans autorisation et de ne pas relâcher ses tortues domestiques dans la nature.

Speakers sought for Freshwater Turtle Conservation Symposium at TWS 2018, Cleveland, OH.

p11

Ohio Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation and Midwest PARC are in the process of organizing a Freshwater Turtle Conservation symposium at the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual TWS Meeting being held in Cleveland, Ohio from October 7-11, 2018 (<u>http://wildlife.org/2018-conference/</u>).

While there will be many invited speakers, approximately 7 additional speaking slots will be open for additional oral presentations on topics of conservation, monitoring, and ecology of freshwater turtles. Talks will be allotted 20 minutes with approximately 18 minutes for the presentation and 2 minutes for questions. If you are interested in presenting at this symposium, please submit the following information by email to <u>nicholas.a.smeenk@gmail.com</u> by February 28:

Author(s) and affiliations Title Abstract (limited to 250 words)

Presenters will be invited for participation by April 17, 2018.

Sincerely,

Freshwater Turtle Conservation symposium planning committee

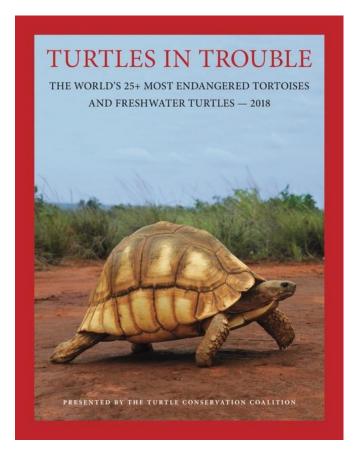
Nick Smeenk, OHPARC Advisory Board, The Ohio State University Greg Lipps, OHPARC Co-Chair, The Ohio State University Mike Benard, MWPARC Co-Chair, Case Western Reserve University Matt Cross, OHPARC Co-Chair, Toledo Zoo Mark Jordan, Outgoing MWPARC Co-Chair, IPFW Teal Richards-Dimitrie, OHPARC Advisory Board Member, EnviroScience Inc.

David Dimitrie, Case Western Reserve University (Two Species at risk- Razorback Musk and S. PaintedTurtles-From Left to right)



The Turtle Extinction Crisis: Nearly half of all freshwater turtles and tortoises are at risk of disappearing forever, a new report warns. (The Report is available as a downloadable PDF file on the Turtle Conservancy website.): p12

The Revelator, 3/12/18 - by John R. Platt



It's not easy to be a turtle in the 21st century. A new report warns that freshwater turtles and tortoises are among the world's most threatened groups of species, with more than 40 percent at risk of extinction due to habitat loss, the illegal pet trade, and consumption for food and traditional medicine.

Among the most threatened species are the Yangtze giant Asian softshell (Rafetus swinhoei), which is down to its last three individuals in China and Vietnam; the ploughshare tortoise (Astrochelys yniphora) of Madagascar, which fetches enormous prices in the illegal pet trade and could disappear from the wild as soon as this year; and the three-striped box turtle (Cuora trifasciata), ownership of which "has become a financial investment and status symbol in China," according to the report.

Also considered highly at risk: the Nubian flapshell turtle (Cyclanorbis elegans), not seen in the wild in at least 15 years and feared extinct by some conservationists. All told about half of all tortoise and freshwater turtle species and subspecies are threatened or at risk of extinction. The list of the 27 most threatened tortoise and freshwater tortoise species: p13 The authors of the report, which was issued last week by a partnership of 10 turtle conservation organizations, call it "an effort to publicize the plight of tortoises and freshwater turtles by highlighting those species that are at the highest risk of extinction." Sadly that's obviously needed, as not much has changed since the <u>previous edition of this</u> <u>report in 2011</u>, which contained a very similar list of turtles. Conservation efforts have benefited a few of these species during that time period, but not enough to improve their overall outlook. In fact the only species from the 2011 list that doesn't appear in the 2018 edition is the Pinta giant tortoise (Chelonoidis abingdonii) of the Galápagos, which went extinct in 2012 with the death of <u>world-famous tortoise Lonesome George</u>.

So why should we care? Well, other than the fact that this list contains some stunningly beautiful and interesting species, tortoises and freshwater turtles also serve vitally important ecological roles in their native habitats. As the report points out, various species help to shape rivers and waterways, assist plant populations by dispersing seeds and fungi, and even keep water clean by scavenging dead animals. They're also significant in human culture and art — which is one of the reasons they're at risk.

Here's the list of the 27 most threatened tortoise and freshwater tortoise species. You can learn a lot more about each of them by downloading the full report <u>here</u>.

- 1 Yangtze giant softshell turtle (Rafetus swinhoei)
- 2 Ploughshare tortoise (Astrochelys yniphora)
- 3 Yunnan box turtle (Cuora yunnanensis)
- 4 Northern river terrapin (Batagur baska)
- 5 Myanmar roofed turtle (Batagur trivittata)
- 6 Zhou's box turtle (Cuora zhoui)
- 7 McCord's box turtle (Cuora mccordi)
- 8 Geometric turtle (Psammobates geometricus)
- 9 Golden-headed box turtle (Cuora aurocapitata)
- 10 Dahl's toad-headed turtle (Mesoclemmys dahli)
- 11 Nubian flapshell turtle (Cyclanorbis elegans)
- 12 Three-striped box turtle (Cuora trifasciata)
- 13 Burmese star tortoise (Geochelone platynota)
- 14 Roti Island snake-headed turtle (Chelodina mccordi)
- 15 Southeast Asian narrow-headed softshell turtle (Chitra chitra)
- 16 Bellinger River snapping turtle (Myuchelys georgesi)
- 17 Vietnamese pond turtle (Mauremys annamensis)
- 18 Central American river turtle (Dermatemys mawii)
- 19 Madagascar big-headed turtle (Erymnochelys madagascariensis)
- 20 Southern river terrapin (Batagur affinis)
- 21 Red-crowned roof turtle (Batagur kachuga)
- 22 Sulawesi forest turtle (Leucocephalon yuwonoi)
- 23 Western swamp turtle (Pseudemydura umbrina)
- 24 Hodge's side-necked turtle (Mesoclemmys hogei)
- 25 Palawan forest turtle (Siebenrockiella leytensis)
- 26 Magdalena river turtle (Podocnemis lewyana)
- 27 Painted terrapin (Batagur borneoensis)

# Threatened: A green-haired turtle that can breathe through its genitals:

## p14

By JAMES GORMAN APRIL 12, 2018, New York Times

(Editor- I think it's worth reading this paper for the criteria it used, since the turtles listed seem to be different than the ones listed by the The Turtle Conservation Coalition available at the Turtle Conservancy Page.)



This Australian turtle is making headlines around the world, the weird-looking star on a new list of threatened reptiles issued by the Zoological Society of London. Credit-Chris Van Wyk

In the debate over saving endangered species, it may be that some should get priority just because of how weird they are. Take the green-haired turtle. It breathes through its genitals. Not all the time — but after a long time underwater, an alternative way to get oxygen really helps.

The turtle is thirtieth on a <u>new list of reptiles in trouble</u> put out by the Zoological Society of London. The <u>Edge of Existence</u> program at the society looks at the evolutionary trees of animals that are endangered to determine which are most evolutionary distinctive. Previously, they put out lists for mammals and amphibians. The new list ranks reptiles on a combination of how distinctive and how endangered they are.

Rikki Gumbs and other researchers at the society who worked on the new list wrote a paper explaining how they arrive at the rankings, which was published in the journal PLOS One on <u>Wednesday</u>.

Mr. Gumbs, who is pursuing a Ph.D. jointly at Imperial College London and the zoological society, said that evolutionary distinctiveness is not exactly the same as weirdness, but not far off.

It is a measure of "how alone you are on the tree of life," he said. Those species do "tend to be weird and wonderful in the way they live." The one with the green "mohawk" hair (actually algae), formally known as the Mary River turtle, is an Australian species that split from other living species about 40 million years ago. It has special organs in its cloaca that allow it to draw oxygen from the water. It can stay underwater for up to three days.

# **Radiated Tortoise Seizure - Day 2 :**

#### by Jordan Gray on April 14, 2018

Ifaty, Madagascar - Triage efforts are underway by our TSA-Madagascar staff and partners in the region for the nearly 10,000 Radiated Tortoises (Astrochelys radiata) seized from a single residence in Toliara on April 10th. All are being temporarily housed at "Villages de Tortues" in Ifaty while they receive initial in-processing, health evaluations, hydration, and triage. These processes have been extremely labor intensive and time-consuming, but our collective ground forces are doing an incredible job managing the thousands of tortoises — a task of monumental proportions!



A juvenile Radiated Tortoise rests in the shade in lfaty.

In the United States, Madagascar, and elsewhere abroad, our TSA staff and partners including Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, Utah's Hogle Zoo, Oklahoma City Zoo and Botanical Garden, Wildlife Conservation Society, San Diego Zoo, Zoo Knoxville, Shedd Aquarium, Zoo Atlanta, Georgia Aquarium, Dr. Bonnie Raphael, and numerous private individuals have been mobilizing a team of veterinarians, veterinary technicians, husbandry technicians, communications specialists, and support staff to descend on Madagascar this coming week.



Left: A juvenile Radiated Tortoise rests in the shade in lfaty. Right: A fraction of the 10,976 tortoises confiscated on April 10, 2018. Support from the global conservation community has been incredible, and we are extremely thankful for the multitude of individuals and organizations that have begun pouring in donations and supplies. The fight to save these tortoises will not be easy and will not be quick. We expect to send multiple teams to Madagascar over the coming weeks and months to assist in the effort. And we will continue to need your support! We humbly ask that you make a donation to save the lives of these beautiful, charismatic, and critically endangered tortoises.

Please **DONATE TODAY** to save these tortoises, and assist with the largest tortoise rescue effort in our history.



Left: A young Radiated Tortoise recieves an I.D. number from Dr. Natacha Rasolondrazaka of Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust. Right: A juvenile Radiated Tortoise awaits in-processing and examination.

Additionally, if you are a zoological institution, private practice, husbandry technician, or additional support personnel interested in assisting, please contact Andrew Walde, Chief Operations Officer, directly at awalde@turtlesurvival.org.



nsables du Village des tortues mettent tout en œuvre pour que l'épidémie ne se propage

# Un virus décime 900 tortues Radiata à Madagascar

ENVIRONNEMENT. Le 10 avril dernier, près de 11 000 tortues Radiata endémiques de Madagascar ont été confiées au Village des tortues d'Ifaty. Les animaux sont victimes d'un virus peu connu qui a déjà décimé 900 individus. Une situation préoccupante dans la mesure où la tortue Radiata est présente à Maurice et à La Réunion.



900 tortues ont dû être euthanasiées puis brûlées afin d'éviter les risques de contamination. (Photos SOPTOM)

Regional de la sud et diu sud-ouest de Madagascar, la tor-de tryonnée ou Radiata (Astrochelys radiata) a été introduite à Maurice et à La Reunion où on la re-trouve dans de très nom-breux jardins. Elle figure parmi les espèces de tortues jes plus menaciés au monde et et classée en « danger cri-tupue d'extinction » sur la liste rouge de l'Ution internatio-

crow de extinction « sur la inter rouge de l'Union internatio anale pour la conservation de la nature (UICN). En treate ans, la population a été divi-sée par quatre, passant de plusieurs millions de spéci-mens dans les années (1980) a vitérimatres « indique la SOP-mens dans les années (1980) a vitérimatres « indique la SOP-mens dans les années (1980) a quelques centaines de mil-

quelques centaines de mil-liers erviron aujourd'hui. Les 1100 tortues suisies le lo avrit à Toliara ont été confiérs au Village des tortues d'Haty près de Toliara, qui réter au 2005 par la SOITOM Station d'observation et de protection des tortues et de protection de sources de sources de la sociation malgache de sau-

vegarde de l'environnement. Les tortues sinise par les pou-voirs publies lors de trafics y sont placées dans desenclos, sognées, noarnes, avant d'être relâchées une lois que l'accord du gouvernement a été ob-tenu. Problème, les installa-tions d'faity prévues pour re-cevair 5 000 tortues environ ne sont par en mesure d'en accordit i 500 « Les animaus saissi ant anisi dé mélangés

## UN RISQUE ÉPIDÉMIOLOGIQUE

«Queirisque épidémiologique? Chez cortaines tortues, la bouche est obstruée par une longue gonfiée, blanchaire et crevassée. De nouvelles tortues malutides sont découvertes chaque mait. S cortaines pea-vent être soignées, d'autres meurent en quelques heures melgre les soins acharnés de Véquipe. Il a fallu immédiate



En trente ans, la population a été divisée par quatre

ment isoler les enclos concernés. La cinque a été videe, purifiée autant que possible et les ca-davres placés jusqu'alors dans un grand trou ont été déterrés darres placés jusqu'alors dars in grand travort été ditérrer et sonts de Frenchine du vilgas Une véritable situation guarre l'Ausques grant, com plaquer et l'Ausques grant, com plaque et l'ausques grant, com et l'arise, pour stopper l'han pour giel de automars, a la SOPTOM lance un cri d'alarme , «Nous sommes à

la fois concentrés et écœurés. Il faut que le monde sache, que le braconnage s'arrête, et que les passionnés de tous les conti-

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