

# **STUDBOOK BREEDING PROGRAMME**

## **GEOCLEMYS HAMILTONI**

**HAMILTON'S TERRAPIN  
BLACK POND TURTLE  
STRAHLEN - DREIKIELSCHILDKRÖTE  
DRIEKIELSTRAALSCHILDPAAD**



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**E**uropean  
**S**tudbook  
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## **INTRODUCTION.**

Also in 2004 the studbook *Geoclemys hamiltoni* has still only registered the well-known breeding couple in The Netherlands. The captive bred young turtles from 1993 and the next years can only mate with a turtle of the same bloodline. The F2-generation is found in a relative large number especially in Germany. In 2004 is considered to freeze the breeding programme because having a shortage of more new bloodlines in Europe. In the meantime there is a rather big F2 generation of the two original bloodlines in this studbook and that is not a genetic good situation.

But at the moment of writing this rapport there may be a possibility of including a new bloodline in the studbook. That will be a better perspective for the survival of a genetic healthy population of this species in captivity.

Outside Europe there are some breeding results in the United States of America. It would be very favourable, in case there is a possibility to exchange *hamiltoni* bloodlines with American breeders.

The *G. hamiltoni* is still on the CITES Appendix I. The situation in the natural habitat of this turtle is still critical. The increased big floods of the riverbanks especially in Bangladesh are still disastrous for the nests. The supply on the Chinese foods markets is remarkable reduced in 2004. And that could be a bad indication of the situation in the habitats of the *G. hamiltoni*.

## **STUDBOOK POPULATION.**

In the Studbook *Geoclemys hamiltoni* are 199 animals registered in 2004. (It must be noticed that there are specimen of this species in the EU-countries outside this studbook)

Registered turtles:

1.2 adult wild turtles. Untill this moment only one of these females is breeding. The other female has a medical problem and can not breed.

Total studbook numbers 219 turtles

4 adults: 2 females and 2 males, 1 female breeding impossible, 1 male dead  
219 hatchlings, 11 dead, 1 deformed by birth.

This hatchlings were born in:

1993 6  
1994 23



1995 40  
1996 22  
1997 30  
1998 31



1999 21  
2000 16  
2001 –  
2002 –  
2003 20



2004 10

During 2001 and 2002 the female was not in optimal condition, so reproduction did not occur.

Because of the very many hatchlings and the impossibility to keep those animals all in The Netherlands, most hatchlings has been transported to other European countries, so it is not to be said if these animals are male or female.

### **LOCATIONS.**

At December 31, 2004 the species is kept in The Netherlands (8 places). Sweden (1 place), Spain (1 place) and Germany (5 places).

### **IMPORTS.**

There has been no imports in the western part of Europe in 2004.

### **DEATHS.**

No deaths are reported in 2004.

### **BOTTLE-NECK.**

One of the proposes of the European Studbook is to try to breed endangered reptiles in captivity on purpose to take care that the species will not be died out.

The breeding of the original 1.1 *G. hamiltonii* in captivity is no problem. But also in 2004 it appears that especially in the Netherlands there are few people who wants to take care of these turtles. There are several good reasons for this opinion.

This turtle is rather large before it will produced eggs and hatchlings. Therefore it needs a lot of space and many turtle-keepers just cannot give that space. The turtle eats in freedom mostly snails. Of course it is impossible to feed the animal in its natural way. In itself this is no problem, there are enough good other alternatives and variation is also important. Beside it, it takes a long time to get a couple to breed. It also takes a rather long time before they trust their keeper. More than that: it is impossible to replace the turtle in its habitat, not only for raisons of diseases and genetic, but also means replacing the species in the wild the sad reality that this turtle will be captured again for food. An other problem is the explosive grow of the Indian population and the damage or the disappearance of its habitat. It is hardly to believe, but at the moment the Indian population is more voluminous in number than the Chinese population.



### **REQUEST.**

The studbook-keeper is looking for new bloodlines in the EU-countries. Therefore the keepers of one of more *G. hamiltonii*, who do not participate until this moment in this studbook, are gladly invited to contact the studbook-keeper.

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