



# Red-eared slider turtle

(*Trachemys scripta elegans*)

**Originated in North and Central America. Imported in France up to 1997 as a pet.**

## Description

- Yellowish stripes along the head and neck
- Characteristic red "ears" posterior to the eyes
- Shell up to 24 cm (males) and 29 cm (females) long in adults:
  - black carapace (yellow and light-green stripes in juveniles)
  - yellow plastron with dark-green spots
- Average adult weight is 3.2 kilograms
- Sexual dimorphism in adults with, for males:
  - a longer and thicker tail
  - larger claws on the front feet
- Maximum life span approximately 30 years

## Ecology and reproduction

- Habitats in many types of aquatic environments, primarily in stagnant water
- Carnivorous diet for juveniles and omnivorous for adults
- Reproductive activity starting at an age between 3 and 8 years
- Mating in the spring and/or fall
- Females lay eggs once or twice per year, approximately a dozen eggs in nests dug into banks
- Incubation for 70 to 90 days
- Newborn vary in size between 23 and 35 mm

## Documentation

- Sarat E. (coord.) 2012. Vertébrés exotiques envahissants du bassin de la Loire (hors poissons) : connaissances et expériences de gestion. Office national de la chasse et de la faune sauvage, Plan Loire Grandeur Nature, 128 pp.
- Nepveu C. 2002. Les espèces animales et végétales susceptibles de proliférer dans les milieux aquatiques et subaquatiques - Fiches espèces animales (Les espèces exotiques). Agence de l'eau Artois-Picardie. 98 pp.
- Pascal M., Lorvelec O. et Vigne J.-D. 2006. Invasions biologiques et extinctions: 11 000 ans d'histoire des vertébrés en France. Quae éditions. 350 pp.

Author: Emilie Mazaubert, Irstea

### Classification

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| Order   | Testudines                                    |
| Family  | Emydidae                                      |
| Genus   | Trachemys                                     |
| Species | <i>Trachemys scripta elegans</i> (Wied, 1839) |

