

Turtles of Belize

Parker Gibbons



@eco_gibbons
@bfreebz

Sambonago



PC: Eric Munsch

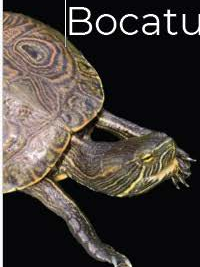


Central-American snapping turtle

Chelydra rossignonii

- Relatively understudied
- Carnivorous, an ambush predator
- One of the largest freshwater turtle species in Central America

Bocatura



PC: Michael Skibsted



Meso-American slider turtle

Trachemys venusta

- Found in river systems, ponds, and streams
- Hatchlings sport intricate patterns and vibrant colors

♀ Hicatee



Central-American river turtle

Dermatemys mawii

- Fully aquatic species found in large river systems
- Male sport bright yellow heads
- Generally herbivorous
- Critically endangered

Furrowed wood turtle

Rhinoclemmys areolata

- Domed shell
- Found primarily in open savanna wetlands and lowland rainforest
- Dark greenish brown carapace
- Yellow and black plastron

Black-belly



Three-keeled

Mexican giant musk turtle

Staurotypus triporcatus

- Largest of the mud/musk turtles
- Highly pronounced carapacial keels
- Found in a variety of creeks, lagoons, and rivers
- Primarily feeds upon seeds. Large individuals occasionally eat turtles



PC: Larissa Saarel

Swanka

Atlantic red-cheeked mud turtle

Kinosternon cruentatum

- Found primarily in savanna wetlands
- High, domed shell with pronounced keels
- Hinged plastron that can close all the way



Swanka

White-lipped mud turtle

Kinosternon leucostomom

- Found in pools and streams in the rainforest
- Dark shell with a white head
- Hinged plastron that can close all the way

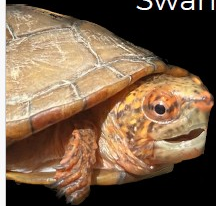


Swanka

Tabasco mud turtle

Kinosternon acutum

- Found primarily in dense jungle
- Lives under leaf litter and emerges after large rains to forage in the wet-season pools
- Highly variable, often are shades of orange and red



Loggerhead

Narrow-bridged musk turtle

Claudius angustatus

- Rare and understudied
- Thought to be found mainly in the transitional zone of the lowland rainforest
- Referred to as vampire musk turtles due to fang-like cusps on the upper jaw

