

SPINY HILL TURTLE

updated March 2017



Range	Southeast Asian islands west of the Wallace line; also found on numerous Indonesian islands in the Philippines
Habitat	Near streams in tropical lowland forests
Diet (wild)	Fruit
Diet (captivity)	
Description	Length: 7–8½ inches. Have a sharp, pointed, spiky-edged carapace, which is particularly pronounced in young turtles. Large adults are often “spineless.” The carapace is brown with a pale streak down the center. Head and limbs are grayish-brown, usually with a yellow or red spot behind the eye. The plastron is buff colored with an intricate pattern of dark radiating lines on each scute.
Lifespan	
Reproduction	The female lays 1–2 eggs are laid per clutch, usually at night or in the early morning. A hinge develops in the female’s plastron to allow greater flexibility during egg laying. Incubation has only been recorded in captivity: incubation periods last for 106–145 days, although breeding in captivity has largely been unsuccessful and relatively little is known about their reproductive behavior in the wild. Mating behavior is stimulated by rains. Males become excited and begin to chase females in an attempt to mount. Like all species of turtles, there is no parental care provided to the offspring.
Behavior	Spiny turtles spend the majority of their time on land foraging for food or burrowing amongst the leaf litter on the forest floor. Juveniles are more terrestrial than adults. They often hide under plant debris or clumps of grass.
Our animals	1 female. Arrived at PPZ in 01/2005
Cool stuff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spiny turtles are also known as cog-wheel turtles. • The spiny scutes are thought to be deterrent to predators.

Phylum
ChordataClass
ReptiliaOrder
TestudinesFamily
GeoemydidaeGenus
Heosemysspecies
H. spinosa