

Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

ERNST, CARL H. 1980. *Rhinoclemmys nasuta*.***Rhinoclemmys nasuta* (Boulenger)
Large-nosed terrapin**

Nicoria nasuta Boulenger, 1902:53. Type-locality, "Belún, 160 feet, and from the Rio Durango, 350 feet," Esmeraldas Province, Ecuador. Syntypes, four adults, British Mus. (Natur. Hist.) 1947.3.5.54-57, a male and two females from Belún of 15-16 April 1901 and a female from the Rio Durango of 2 May 1901 respectively, collected by G. Flemming (examined by author).

Geoemyda nasuta: Siebenrock, 1909:499.

Geoemyda punctularia nasuta: Mertens, 1954:3.

Callopsis punctularia nasuta: Smith, Smith and Sawin, 1976:216.

Callopsis nasuta: Ernst, 1978:113.

- CONTENT. *Rhinoclemmys nasuta* is a monotypic species.

- DEFINITION. Adults grow to 223 mm in carapace length; females average larger than males. The flattened adult carapace is generally smooth but with small rugosities in some, mid-dorsally keeled, only slightly serrated posteriorly, and usually widest and highest just behind the middle. The carapace is reddish-brown to black often with black scute seams. The unhinged plastron is well developed, slightly upturned anteriorly, and notched posteriorly; it is yellow with a large reddish-brown to black blotch on each scute. The head is moderate sized, with a strongly projecting snout and a notched upper jaw. A cream to yellow stripe extends from the tip of the snout to each orbit, and another one runs posterior from the orbit dorsolaterally to the nape. A third

light stripe passes from the lower edge of the orbit to the tympanum and another from the corner of the mouth to the tympanum. Dark vertical bars occur on the lower jaw. The feet are strongly webbed. The skin is reddish-brown to yellow. Males have narrower carapaces, concave plastrons, and longer tails with the vent beyond the carapacial margin. Females are larger and wider and have shorter tails with the vent beneath the carapace.

- DESCRIPTIONS. General descriptions are given by Siebenrock (1909), Wettstein (1934), Medem (1962), Pritchard (1967) and Ernst (1978). Medem (1962) also describes a juvenile specimen.

- ILLUSTRATIONS. Medem (1962) presents color and black and white photographs of adults, some of which illustrate sexual dimorphism, and drawings of the carapace, plastron and head patterns.

- DISTRIBUTION. This turtle is known only from the Pacific drainages of western Colombia and northwestern Ecuador where its preferred habitat is large rivers with strong current. In Choco, Colombia, it occurs in Cabi Slough around Quibdo, Rio Quito, a tributary of the upper Atrato, and Rio Truando. It is also abundant in the San Juan, Docampadó, and Baudo rivers. Apparently its center of distribution in Colombia is in the San Juan and Baudo valleys. Medem (1962) discusses and presents a map of the distribution in Colombia. In northwestern Ecuador, *R. nasuta* has been recorded from the type localities and near Esmeraldas.

- FOSSIL RECORD. None.

- PERTINENT LITERATURE. A good general account is in Medem (1962). Parsons (1968) presents the choanal structure. Medem (1968) gives the distribution in Colombia, and Ernst (1978) discusses the taxonomic relationships with other *Rhinoclemmys*.

- ETYMOLOGY. The specific name *nasuta* derives from the Latin *nasutus* meaning large-nosed and refers to the strongly projecting snout of this turtle.

COMMENT

Knowledge of the life history of this species is lacking and ecological and behavioral studies are needed. These turtles will be difficult to study owing to their strongly aquatic habits in habitats of deep waters with rapid currents.

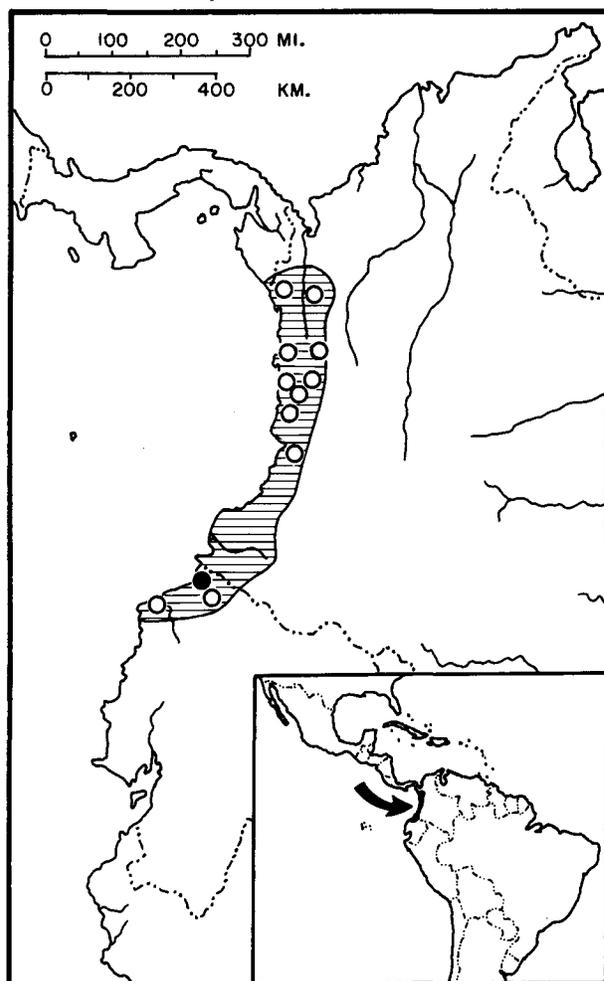
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C. H. ERNST, GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY, FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22030.

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MAP. The solid circle marks the type-locality; open circles indicate other selected localities.