

REPTILIA)
TRADE MARKS
ELEGANS)

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FAKULTI SAINS DAN TEKNOLOGI
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TESTUDINIDAE AND TRIONYCHIDAE (ANIMALIA: REPTILIA) IN THE PET
TRADE WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON INDIAN STAR TORTOISES
(*GEOCHELONE ELEGANS*) IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA

By

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Tarikh:

“Captive animals. I see the look in their eyes. It is a look I cannot forget, which I will not betray and which will follow me for the rest of my days.”

Virginia McKenna

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

USD	-	United States Dollars
RM	-	Ringgit Malaysia
SEA	-	Southeast Asia
NGO	-	Non Governmental Organization
CITES	-	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
PERHILITAN	-	Department of Wildlife and National Park Peninsular Malaysia
WWF	-	World Wildlife Fund for Nature
API	-	Animal Protection Institute
UPGMA	-	Unweighted Pair-Group Method using Arithmetic Average
MVSP	-	Multivariate Statistical Package
ANOVA	-	Analysis of Variance
No.	-	Number
MIN	-	Minimum
MAX	-	Maximum
n	-	Number of individuals
IUCN	-	The World Conservation Union
EX	-	Extinct
JNCC	-	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
EW	-	Extinct in the Wild
CR	-	Critically Endangered

EN	-	Endangered
VU	-	Vulnerable
LR/cd	-	Lower Risk/conservation dependent
NT	-	Near Threatened
LR/nt	-	Lower Risk/near threatened
DD	-	Data Deficient
LC	-	Least Concern
LR/lc	-	Lower Risk/least concern

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ABSTRACT

The legal and illegal pet trade in Peninsular Malaysia is a big business. Members of the family Testudinidae and Trionychidae have a significant market in the pet trade. Four major cities namely, Penang Island, Ipoh, Johor Baharu and Kuala Lumpur were selected and informal surveys were conducted in these four cities. Methods used to obtain information were questioning and observations. In total, 88 pet shops were found. A total of 696 individuals from 31 species were located. A high species abundance and composition was observed in Kuala Lumpur (79.97%). Average prices in Kuala Lumpur were also higher than the other cities surveyed. Red-eared Sliders (*Trachemys scripta elegans*) were the most common species in all four cities with an abundance of 490 individuals (50.56%). The most expensive species found in the pet trade was The Radiated Tortoise (*Geochelone radiata*) costing RM2500.00 each. The cheapest species recorded was the River Terappin (*Batagur baska*) costing RM3.00 each. Indian Star Tortoises (*Geochelone elegans*) has a significant market in the pet trade with high abundance and individual value in most cities. A total of 125 (12.90%) individuals were recorded during the survey. The average price range of an Indian Star Tortoise was RM177.50 each. Many species surveyed were listed in CITES and IUCN red list but failed to gain protection under local legislation. Steps need to be taken by local authorities, pet lovers and the general public to ensure a legal and sustainable wildlife trade in Peninsular Malaysia.

**TESTUDINIDAE AND TRIONYCHIDAE (ANIMALIA: REPTILIA) DALAM
PERDAGANGAN HAIWAN PERLIHARAAN DENGAN PENEKANAN KE ATAS
INDIAN STAR TORTOISE (*Geochelone elegans*) DI SEMENANJUNG
MALAYSIA.**

ABSTRAK

Perdagangan haiwan perliharaan di Semenanjung Malaysia adalah satu perniagaan besar. Ahli dari famili Testudinidae and Trionychidae mempunyai pasaran yang ketara. Empat bandaraya utama, Pulau Penang, Ipoh, Johor Baharu and Kuala Lumpur dipilih and survey secara tidak rasmi dilakukan. Kaedah pertanyaan dan pemerhatian digunakan dalam kajian ini. Sejumlah 88 kedai haiwan peliharaan and akuarium ditemui. Sebanyak 696 individu ditemui dari 31 spesis. Kuala Lumpur mencatatkan kelimpahan spesis yang paling tinggi (79.97%). Harga jualan turut tinggi di Kuala Lumpur berbanding bandaraya lain. Red-eared Sliders (*Trachemys scripta elegans*) adalah spesis paling kerap ditemui (50.56%). Spesis yang paling mahal yang ditemui adalah Radiated Tortoise (*Geochelone radiata*) yang berharga RM2500.00 seekor. Spesis paling murah yang ditemui adalah tuntung (*Batagur baska*) yang berharga RM3.00 seekor. Indian Star Tortoises mempunyai pasaran tersendiri dalam perdagangan haiwan perliharaan kerana harganya serta kelimpahannya. Sejumlah 125 (12.90%) individu ditemui dari empat bandaraya yang dikaji. Harga purata bagi seekor Indian Star Tortoise adalah RM177.50 seekor. Banyak spesis didapati tersenarai dalam CITES dan IUCN tetapi gagal mendapat perhatian dibawah undang-undang tempatan. Langkah-langkah perlu diambil oleh semua pihak untuk memastikan perdagangan hidupan liar di Semenanjung Malaysia adalah pengikut undang-undang and dilakukan secara mapan.