

Chelonoidis denticulatus



Yellow-footed tortoise

Conservation status



Scientific classification

Domain: Eukaryota

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: Reptilia

Order: Testudines

Suborder: Cryptodira

Superfamily: Testudinoidea

Family: Testudinidae

Genus: Chelonoidis

Species: *C. denticulatus*

Binomial Name

Chelonoidis denticulatus

(Linnaeus, 1766)

The yellow-footed tortoise (*Chelonoidis denticulatus*), also known as the Brazilian giant tortoise, is a species of tortoise in the family Testudinidae and is closely related to the red-footed tortoise (*C. carbonarius*). It is found in the Amazon Basin of South America.⁶⁰

The shell is thick and heavy; dark brown with patches of yellow; limbs and head are brown with some orange scales and markings; skin is black with yellow markings on the head and lower jaw; some scales on the limbs and tail are bright yellow.⁶¹ Their size for males is 40 cm (16 in) and females 60-75 cm (24-30 in). Their weight is around 11.25-15.75 kg (25-35 lbs.).⁶¹

Behaviour

These tortoises make a sound like a baby cooing with a raspy voice. Tortoises also identify each other using body language. The male tortoise makes head movements toward other males, but the female does not make these head movements. Male tortoises also swing their heads back and forth in a continuous rhythm as a mating ritual.⁶²

Diet

The yellow-footed tortoise eats many kinds of foliage. They are too slow to capture any fast animals. In the wild, their diets consist of grasses, flowers, fallen fruit, carrion, plants, bones, mushrooms, excrement, and slow-moving invertebrates such as snails, worms, and others they are able to capture.⁶³

Ecology and conservation

In its range, the biggest threat to the survival of yellow-footed tortoises is over-hunting by man. Yellow-foots are collected in large numbers and shipped to many different South American cities to be sold as a delicacy. Another threat facing yellow-foot populations is the ever-present habitat loss and disturbance.⁶¹