

Endohelminths from five rare species of turtles (Bataguridae) from southeast Asia confiscated by international authorities in Hong Kong, People's Republic of China

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Abstract

Specimens of 5 species of threatened, vulnerable, and endangered turtles (*Cuora amboinensis*, *Cyclemys dentata*, *Heosemys grandis*, *Orlitia borneensis*, and *Pyxidea mouhotii*) belonging to Bataguridae, were confiscated in Hong Kong, China on 11 December 2001 by international authorities. A review of the endohelminths previously reported from these turtles was compiled and is summarized herein. Endohelminth studies on these turtle species are reasonably scarce, and this study provided a rare opportunity to examine a limited number of specimens for endohelminths. Seven different parasite species were collected and there were 8 new host records. This is the first record of a parasite from *P. mouhotii*. This study is intended to provide additional information for comparisons to future parasite studies of species of Asian freshwater turtles.

Key words: Trematoda, Nematoda, Bataguridae, Spirorchidae, Aspidogastrea, Digenea, *Cuora amboinensis*, *Cyclemys dentata*, *Heosemys grandis*, *Orlitia borneensis*, *Pyxidea mouhotii*, *Falcaustra duyagi*, *Falcaustra greineri*, *Serpinema octorugatum*, *Polystomoides malayi*, *Stunkardia dilymphosa*, *Telorchis clemmydis*, Malaysia, Hong Kong, China

Introduction

On December 11, 2001, the Agricultural Fisheries and Conservation Department of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) of the People's Republic of China in concert with the Customs and Excise Department confiscated approximately 10,000 turtles in Hong Kong, China. The majority of the confiscated species are listed as endangered, threatened, or vulnerable species. The seizure had an estimated black-market value of