

Chelonian Research Foundation Linnaeus Fund: 1995 Grant Recipients



Chelonian Research Foundation (CRF), established as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit tax-exempt private operating foundation in 1992, administers a turtle research endowment fund named *The Linnaeus Fund*, for which it invites the submission of chelonian research proposals for its *Annual Turtle Research Awards*. Named after CAROLUS LINNAEUS [1707–1778], the Swedish creator of binomial nomenclature, the fund honors the first turtle taxonomist and father of all modern systematics.

For its 4th Annual Linnaeus Fund Awards selection on 31 December 1995, CRF awarded a total of \$4000 divided among five research projects. Awards granted were as follows:

CASARES, MIGUEL, AND SCHRAMM, BEATRIX. Study of the reproductive cycle of male and female giant tortoises (*Geochelone elephantopus*) on the Galápagos Islands by fecal steroid analysis and ultrasound scanning. Zürich Zoological Gardens, Zürich, Switzerland.

GERLACH, JUSTIN, AND CANNING, K. LAURA. On a new species of Seychelles giant tortoise. The Nature Protection Trust of Seychelles, Cambridge, United Kingdom.

PERESHKOLNIK, SOLOMON L. Monitoring of the threatened subspecies *Testudo graeca nikolskii* along the northwestern Caucasus Black Sea coast. Moscow Zoo, Moscow, Russia.

STARBIRD, CHRISTOPHER H., AND SUAREZ, ALEXIS. Establishing an environmental awareness program in the Kei Islands, Indonesia. San Jose and Aptos, California, USA.

WILSON, DAWN S., WILGA, CHERYL A., AND KARL, STEPHEN A. Assessing genetic isolation in the striped mud turtle, *Kinosternon baurii*, using mtDNA. University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida, USA.

Linnaeus Fund awards are granted annually to individuals for specific turtle research projects, with either partial or full support as funding allows. Priority is generally given to

projects concerning freshwater turtles, but tortoise and marine turtle research proposals are also seriously considered and funded. Priority is usually given to the following general research areas: taxonomy and systematic relationships, distribution and zoogeography, ecology, natural history, and morphology, but other topics are also considered. Priority is also given to projects that demonstrate potential relevance to the scientific basis and understanding of chelonian diversity and conservation biology. Award recipients agree to publish at least partial or summarized results of the supported research in a CRF-sponsored publication, such as *Chelonian Conservation and Biology*.

Awards for 1996 are expected to be in the \$500 to \$1000 range for each project, with about four or five projects funded. We anticipate that, with time, there will be increased grant support as the endowment fund grows. The annual application deadline is November 15, with disbursement prior to December 31. Submit applications in formal grant proposal format in triplicate as follows: title page, project objective, background and research rationale, materials and methods, total project expenses, funding requested from CRF, funding available or requested from other organizations, general timetable, literature cited, and curriculum vitae for all key personnel.

Awards are granted through an internal review process carried out by the Director and Scientific Advisory Board of CRF, which includes ANDERS G.J. RHODIN, RUSSELL A. MITTERMEIER, PETER C.H. PRITCHARD, JOHN L. BEHLER, and TERRY E. GRAHAM. Submit applications to:

ANDERS G.J. RHODIN, Chelonian Research Foundation, 168 Goodrich Street, Lunenburg, MA 01462 USA; Phones: 508-534-9440, 508-582-9668, Fax: 508-840-8184, E-mail: RhodinCRF@aol.com

Request for Information: Biology and Conservation of the Cuban Slider, *Trachemys decussata*

My colleagues and I are working on the endemic Cuban slider, *Trachemys decussata*, in Parque Nacional de la Ciénaga de Zapata, Cuba. This National Park, with an area of 500,000 ha in the southeast of the island, is renowned for its great diversity of flora, fauna, endemic species, and aquatic systems. The management plan for the park not only includes conservation projects, but also utilization such as forestry exploitation and farming.

The Cuban slider is an important source of animal protein, now more than ever because of the economic situation in the country. Hence, exploitation pressures on this endemic terrapin are intense and increasing.