

## NEWSNOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### Chelonian Research Foundation Linnaeus Fund: 1996 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 5th Annual Linnaeus Fund Awards selection on 31 December 1996, CRF awarded a total of \$5500 divided among 7 research projects. Awards granted were as follows:

- AKRE, THOMAS S.B. The ecology of the wood turtle (*Clemmys insculpta*) in northern Virginia. George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia.
- DRESLIK, MICHAEL J. Reproductive ecology, home range and dispersal of the river cooter, *Pseudemys concinna*, in Illinois. Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, Illinois.
- JACKSON, DALE R. Proposal to survey the distributional "gap" in the Florida range of *Pseudemys concinna*. Tallahassee, Florida.
- LEUTERITZ, THOMAS E. The reproductive biology and conservation of the African spurred tortoise *Geochelone sulcata* (Miller, 1779) in Sénégal. George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia.
- LINDEMAN, PETER V. Diet and reproductive biology of the Texas map turtle, *Graptemys versa*, on the Upper Llano River in 1949. University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky.
- TASKAVAK, ERTAN, AND REIMANN, MICHAEL. Conservation project to save the future of the species *Rafetus euphraticus* at the Euphrates River in southeastern Turkey. Ege Universitesi, Bornova, Turkey.
- TUCKER, ANTON D., AND BRODERICK, DAMIEN. Age estimation of *Eretmochelys imbricata* via sclerochronology of carapacial scutes. University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia.

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 funded. Priority is generally 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 at this time are typically in the \$500 to \$1000 range for each project, with about five or more projects funded annually. It is anticipated that there will be increased grant support from year to year as the endowment fund grows. The annual application deadline is November 15, with disbursement on 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

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### The 17th Annual Sea Turtle Symposium — Largest Ever

The 17th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation was held at the Delta Orlando Resort in Orlando, Florida, USA, from 4–8 March 1997. This symposium was hosted by Florida Atlantic University, Mote Marine Laboratory, University of Central Florida, University of Florida, and the Comité Nacional para la Conservación y Protección de las Tortugas Marinas. The 17th was the largest symposium, to date, of sea turtle biologists, students, regulatory personnel, managers, and volunteers. A total of 720 participants registered, representing 38 countries. In addition to the United States, other countries represented included Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bonaire, Bermuda, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Greece, Honduras, India, Italy, Japan, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, The Netherlands, Nicaragua, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Seychelles, Spain, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey,