

Reprint From:

CHELONIAN CONSERVATION AND BIOLOGY

Journal of the IUCN/SSC Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group
and International Bulletin of Chelonian Research

Volume 1, Number 1

November 1993

RANGE EXTENSION FOR *EMYDURA SUBGLOBOSA* IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

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Published by
Chelonian Research Foundation

with support from
Conservation International, Chelonia Institute,
NYZS/The Wildlife Conservation Society, Florida Audubon Society,
and IUCN (The World Conservation Union) - Species Survival Commission

NOTES AND FIELD REPORTS

Chelonian Conservation and Biology, 1993, 1(1):47-48
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Range Extension for *Emydura subglobosa* in Papua New Guinea

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The red-bellied short-necked chelid turtle, *Emydura subglobosa* (Pleurodira: Chelidae), has a widespread distribution in the southern lowlands of the island of New Guinea, including Irian Jaya, Indonesia, and Papua New Guinea (distribution documented in Iverson, 1992), and is also found at the northern tip of the Cape York Peninsula in Queensland in Australia (Cogger, 1975). In Papua New Guinea it occurs throughout the southern lowlands from the Western Province at the Irian Jaya border in the west to the Port Moresby region in the Central Province in the east. The eastern range limit previously recorded (Iverson, 1992) is the Laloki River, Port Moresby. However, Podloucky (1984) records the purchase of specimens by Urban (*pers. comm.*) in a market 40 km [by road] east of Port Moresby, but gives

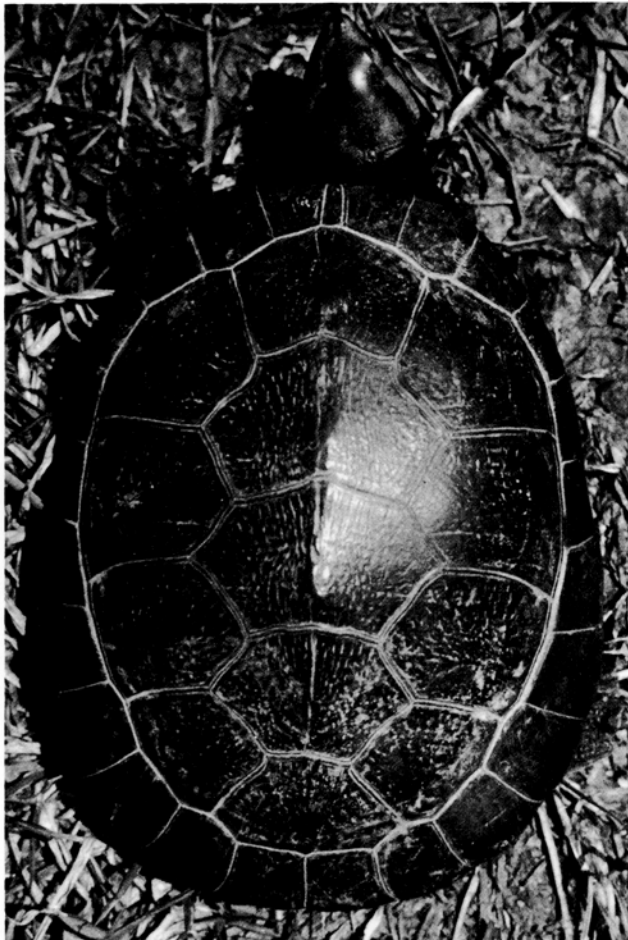


Figure 1. *Emydura subglobosa* male from Launa Kalana, Kemp Welch River (AMNH 133082). Photo by A.G.J. Rhodin.

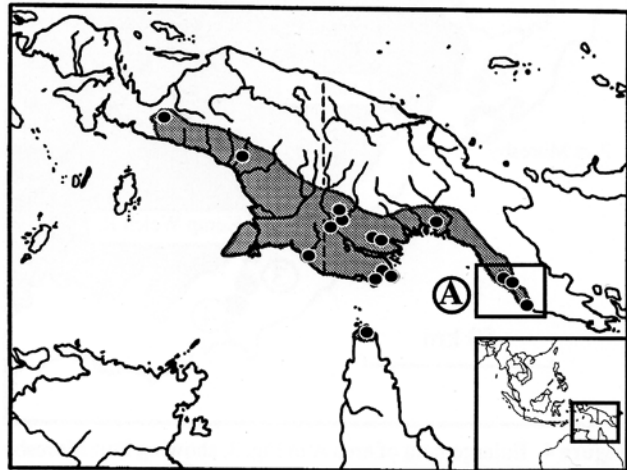


Figure 3. Distribution of *Emydura subglobosa*. See Fig. 4 for enlargement of area in rectangle A. Map modified from Iverson (1992).

no exact locality. His location extends the range of *Emydura subglobosa* slightly, into the upper Laloki River at about the village of Sogeri.

While conducting field studies in Papua New Guinea in 1987, I visited the Kemp Welch River drainage basin ca. 90 km [by air] southeast of Port Moresby. Five specimens of *Emydura subglobosa* were obtained on 14 August 1987 by A.G.J. Rhodin, S.D. Rhodin, and R.G. Zweifel from villagers in Bore (09°53'S, 147°46'E) and Launa Kalana (09°57'S, 147°47'E), Kemp Welch River, Central Province. All were photographed (Chelonian Research Foundation, CRF photograph numbers 1248, 1255-8), and three were collected and deposited in the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH 133080-2) (see Figs. 1-2). The animals had been recently collected by natives from small local swamps and shallow lentic ponds near the river. Further collecting efforts in these ponds during the visit yielded no additional specimens. The turtles are known locally in Sinaugoro vernacular as *gaokori*, with no differentiation between the two species of freshwater turtles found in the region.

These specimens extend the known range of *Emydura subglobosa* in Papua New Guinea ca. 90 km southeast of the previous eastern limit, and ca. 75 km southeast of the locality mentioned by Podloucky (Figs. 3-4). The Kemp Welch

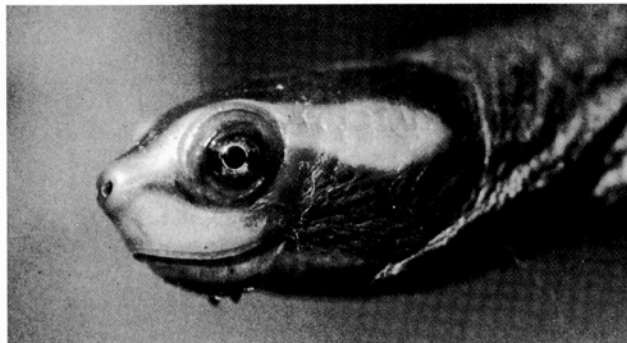


Figure 2. *Emydura subglobosa* sub-adult from Bore, Kemp Welch River (AMNH 133080). Photo by A.G.J. Rhodin.

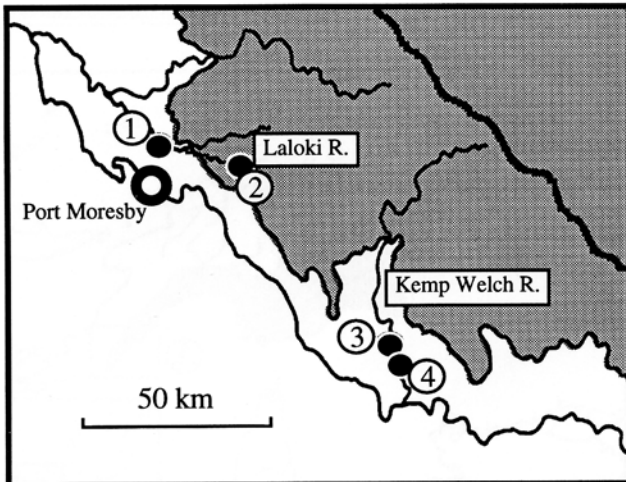


Figure 4. Enlargement of area A in Fig. 3, showing Port Moresby and Kemp Welch River area of southeastern Papua New Guinea. The shaded area represents elevation above 200 m., the heavy dotted line shows the watershed limit of the Owen Stanley Ranges. Localities: 1. Laloki River, Port Moresby; 2. Sogeri, Laloki River; 3. Bore, Kemp Welch River; 4. Launa Kalana, Kemp Welch River.

River basin is an area of relatively high rainfall and mesic lowland alluvial forests, and is separated from the Laloki River and the Port Moresby region by a relatively xeric area of low rainfall and savannah vegetation. The Kemp Welch River basin has recently been found to harbor an isolated new species of freshwater turtle, *Chelodina* sp., which is most closely related to *C. longicollis* of Australia (Rhodin, In press).

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