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GLOSSARY OF TURTLE VERNACULAR NAMES USED IN THE NEW GUINEA REGION

Anders G. J. Rhodin

Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University

Sylvia Spring

Department of Natural Resources, Papua New Guinea

Peter C. H. Pritchard

Florida Audubon Society

A knowledge of the vernacular names of turtles used in the New Guinea region (Papua New Guinea and Irian Jaya, Indonesia) can be of benefit to researchers in a variety of disciplines: the field biologist investigating distribution patterns and animal ecology, the conservation officer concerned with population status and economic potential of management, the ethnologist documenting the social importance of various animal species, or the linguist interested in the completeness of a vocabulary or comparisons with other languages. For each of these research areas, previous knowledge of the local names for turtles can facilitate the initial field contacts during the preliminary phases of a study project. With this aim in mind, an attempt has been made to compile a list of the vernacular names of turtles used in the New Guinea area. A preliminary listing was recently distributed by Rhodin and Spring (1979). The present paper represents the first revision and nearly doubles the original material, but because of the large number of separate languages spoken in the New Guinea region (over 700), it is still only a comparatively incomplete survey, encompassing 124 languages and 368 names. We hope that in publishing these preliminary results further work will be stimulated, leading eventually to as complete a glossary as possible.

The turtles occurring in the New Guinea region are represented by 13 currently recognised species from five different families (Table 1). Approximately half of these are marine turtles inhabiting the waters of the South Pacific, and reported from various localities along the coasts and from the islands. The other half represent freshwater species with limited areas of distribution. There are no species of terrestrial tortoises occurring in the region, though some are to be found to the west in the Indonesian archipelago. *Carettochelys insculpta* is restricted to the southern rivers from the Kokenau area of Irian Jaya to the Gulf Province of Papua New Guinea, in addition to occurring in northern Australia.

TABLE I
Turtles of the New Guinea Region

ORDER TESTUDINES

SUBORDER CRYPTODIRA — Neck retracting in vertical plane.

FAMILY CHELONIIDAE — Marine turtles with hard shells.

Careta caretta (Linnaeus 1758)

Diagnosis: Five or more pairs of costal scutes, first in contact with nuchal. Three inframarginal scutes. Two pairs of prefrontal shields on head. Head often enlarged.

Chelonia mydas (Linnaeus 1758)

Diagnosis: Four pairs of costal scutes, first not in contact with nuchal. Four inframarginal scutes. One pair of prefrontal shields on head. Horned mandibular beak coarsely serrated.

Chelonia depressa (Garman 1880)

Diagnosis: As *C. mydas* but with three postocular shields instead of four, and with areas of wrinkled skin interspersed distally on fore and hind limbs, instead of being covered entirely by enlarged scales. Shell flatter, fore-flippers smaller than *C. mydas*.

Eretmochelys imbricata (Linnaeus 1766)

Diagnosis: Four pairs of costal scutes. Four inframarginal scutes, two pairs of prefrontal shields. Scutes of carapace overlapping except in very young. Vertebral keel. Beak prominent, narrow.

Lepidochelys olivacea (Eschscholtz 1829)

Diagnosis: Six or more pairs of costal scutes. Four enlarged inframarginal scutes, each usually with a pore near the posterior seam. Two pairs of prefrontal shields. Small maximum size.

FAMILY DERMOCHELYIDAE — Marine turtles with leathery shells.

Dermochelys coriacea (Linnaeus 1766)

Diagnosis: Carapace covered by smooth, scuteless black skin. Carapace with seven narrow longitudinal ridges, plastron with four or five ridges. Upper jaw cusped on either side.

FAMILY CARETTOCHELYIDAE — Freshwater turtles with marine type flippers and lacking carapacial scutes.

Carettochelys insculpta Ramsay 1886

Diagnosis: Hard, bony carapace covered by soft, pitted skin. No scutes. Forelimbs paddle-shaped with two claws. Nostrils at end of prominent, fleshy proboscis.

FAMILY TRIONYCHIDAE — Softshelled freshwater turtles.

Pelochelys bibroni (Owen 1853)

Diagnosis: Soft carapace with flexible posterior margin. No scutes. Forelimbs not paddle-shaped. Nostrils at end of small tubular proboscis.

SUBORDER PLEURODIRA — Neck retracting in horizontal plane.

FAMILY CHELIIDAE — Snake-necked freshwater turtles.

Chelodina novaeguineae Bouleenger 1888

Diagnosis: Intergular scute separated from anterior plastral margin by gulars. Four claws on forelimbs. Neck long, but usually not as long as carapace. Head not flattened, dorsal neck skin with small tubercles. Carapace brown, head gray.

Chelodina parkeri Rhodin and Mittermeier 1976

Diagnosis: Intergular scute and forelimb claws as *C. novaeguineae*. Neck long, usually as long as carapace. Head flattened, covered by vermiculated pattern of pale lines on a dark background. Dorsal neck skin without tubercles. Carapace brown with lighter reticulations along edges.

Chelodina siebenrocki Werner 1901

Diagnosis: Intergular scute and forelimb claws as *C. novaeguineae*. Neck long, usually as long or longer than carapace. Head flattened, uniformly dark. Dorsal neck skin without tubercles. Carapace uniformly black or dark brown.

Elseya novaeguineae (Meyer 1874)

Diagnosis: Intergular scute not separated from anterior plastral margin by gulars. Five claws on forelimbs. Neck short, head not flattened, horny parietal shield present, jaws strong. Nuchal scute present or absent. Head without distinct yellowish temporal stripe, though often with indistinct light area lateral to horny shield. Plastron yellow, carapace keeled in juveniles.

Emydura subglobosa (Krefft 1876)

Diagnosis: Intergular scute, forelimb claws, head depth, neck length and jaws as *E. novaeguineae*. No horny parietal shield. Nuchal scute usually present. Head with distinct yellowish temporal stripe from snout through eye to tympanum. Second stripe on maxilla. Plastron red or yellow with reddish streaking along edges. Carapace never keeled.

Pelochelys bibroni is a widespread but rare species occurring both north and south of the Central Ranges; its main area of distribution is further west in the Indo-Australian archipelago. *Chelodina novaeguineae* appears to be restricted to the southern Fly River bulge from Merauke in Irian Jaya to the Gulf Province in Papua New Guinea. *Chelodina parkeri* has been collected only in the Fly River basin of Papua New Guinea. *Chelodina siebenrocki* is restricted to the tidally influenced marshes along the coastline of the southern bulge from Merauke to the Fly River. *Elseya novaeguineae* is a widespread and fairly common species occurring in all low-lying areas both north and south of the Central Ranges, from the Vogelkop peninsula in the west through the Popondetta region in the north-east and the Gulf Province in the south-east. *Emydura subglobosa* is also a fairly common species, but is restricted to the southern side of the Central Ranges, from the Kokenau area of Irian Jaya in the west to the Port Moresby region in the east. Another species of freshwater turtle occurring in the general New Guinea area but not known further east than Indonesian Halmahera is *Cuora amboinensis* (Cryptodira: Emydidae), a small, common, semi-aquatic species with movable plastron which enables it to close into a tight box. Its vernacular name may mistakenly be used in Indonesian Irian Jaya for other freshwater species.

The following glossary of vernacular names is arranged geographically, with separate sections for Papua New Guinea and Irian Jaya, and with each language or representative village listed under its respective province. (Where several names are separated by dashes, the first is the language name, the second the place or village name, the third the dialect name.) The approximate geographic location of each language (or representative village) is depicted on the map (Fig. 1). Most of the vernacular names listed are either from our own field work, a circulated Wildlife Branch questionnaire or from the work of Summer Institute of Linguistics translators. In some cases either the entire language group or individual names were obtained from earlier literature. These cases are appropriately cited.

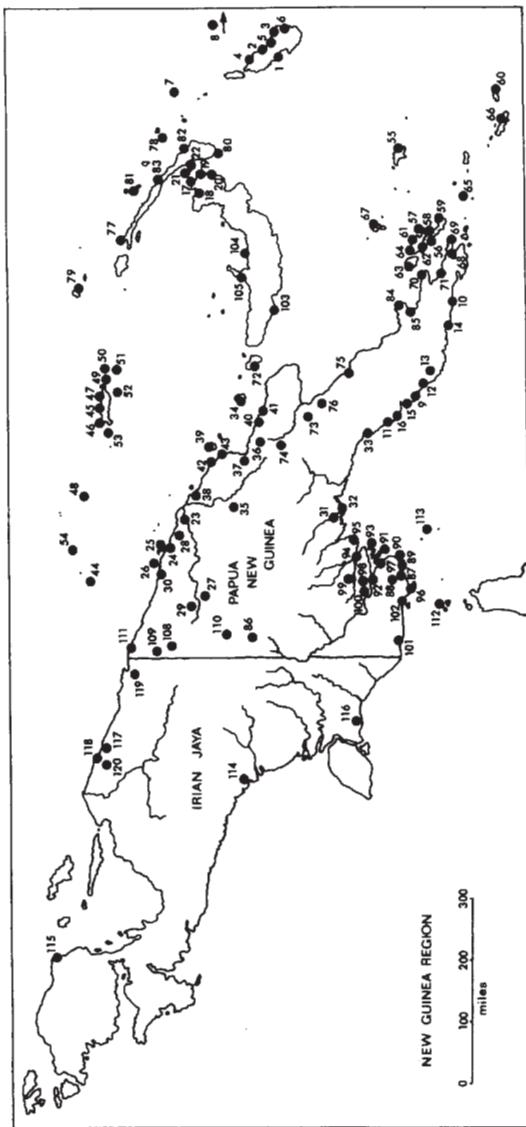


FIGURE 1
Map of New Guinea region showing approximate locations of languages or representative villages listed in glossary

Note: Locations of 106 and 107 are not indicated on map. Exact locality was unclear at time of printing.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Three main languages have wide-spread use: English is spoken by many people, Pidgin (Neomelanesian) is used throughout New Guinea (highlands, north coast plus inlands) and Motu is employed mainly in Papua (south coast).

12.	GAILE kena veu era goli	<i>Chelonia mydas</i> (female) <i>Chelonia mydas</i> (male) <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	<i>Chelonia mydas</i> <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> <i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i> <i>Caretta caretta</i>
13.	KWIKILLA matabudi aoao foakona tinik BAIBARA eiei	<i>Chelonia mydas</i> <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> <i>Chelonia mydas</i> , <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>	<i>Chelonia mydas</i> <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> <i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i>
14.	POREBADA matabudi uswiti kennagatogaro era veu guiguina goi usi vidi HAIARI rakekom hapara hara epapo	turtle (general) <i>Chelonia mydas</i> (male) <i>Chelonia mydas</i> (female) <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> <i>Caretta caretta</i> ?Lepidochelys olivacea ?Caretta depressa <i>Chelonia mydas</i> (large) <i>Chelonia mydas</i> (small) <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	<i>Eliseya novaegeiae</i> <i>Chelonia mydas</i> <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> <i>Caretta caretta</i> marine turtle (general) <i>Chelonia mydas</i> <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> <i>Chelonia mydas</i> marine turtle (general) <i>Chelonia mydas</i> <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> <i>Chelonia mydas</i>
15.	TOLAI pun, apun maia, maiai (Hediger 1934) MATAWUD, ATALIKLIKUM BAY unwal apapel upun	marine turtle (general) <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> <i>Chelonia mydas</i> <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> ?Caretta caretta	<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> <i>Chelonia mydas</i> <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>
16.	WATTA/CAPE GAZELLE amiae GANAI kutun	<i>Chelonia mydas</i> (large) <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> turtle (general)	<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> <i>Chelonia mydas</i> <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>
17.	TOLAI	BAHINEMO ili, ti ti baku	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>
18.	MATAWUD, ATALIKLIKUM BAY unwal apapel upun	KAMASAU isuron mopon	<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>
19.	WATTA/CAPE GAZELLE amiae GANAI kutun	YESSAN-MAYO waasa naak waasa rirruw	<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> <i>Chelonia mydas</i> <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>
20.			

21.	MANUAN saeng	MAKABUL fung	<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>
22.	KABILOMO nabu	LAUTUK fion	<i>Chelonia mydas</i> <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> <i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i>
23.	MARIENBERG (Hediger 1934)	MARSHAL gusch, neusch	<i>Eliseya novaegeiae</i>
24.	CAPE WOM songop	LATUK latuk	<i>Chelonia mydas</i> <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>
25.	MUSHU ISLAND sang	FION fion	<i>Caretta caretta</i>
26.	TARAWAI/WALLIS ISLANDS budi, boudi	FUON latuk	<i>Chelonia mydas</i> <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>
27.	BAHINEMO ili, ti	SANGA sanga	<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> <i>Chelonia mydas</i> freshwater turtle
28.	KAMASAU isuron	LAULAU laulau	marine turtle
29.	YESSAN-MAYO waasa naak waasa rirruw	MANUK rui	<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> <i>Chelonia mydas</i> <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>
30.	KWALA chisanga mungopul puri	BADAGUL SAWAOI lughing	<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> <i>Chelonia mydas</i> <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>
31.	LARAIK GULF PROVINCE	KUTUKUNE kutukune	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>
32.	POROME watemu	BAINAB duid	<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> <i>Chelonia mydas</i>
33.	KIKORI RIVER DELTA uo (Schultze-Westrum 1963)	ULIAN ulian	<i>Eretmochelys insculpta</i>
34.	IOKEA hakeake lahela wiriaho	LAU lau	<i>Chelonia mydas</i> <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>
35.	LONG ISLAND kauanui, kabudue, karadue papiro, papodo, papodo olol, ololo	MAN man	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> <i>Chelonia mydas</i> <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>
36.	RAWA poonuna	MAN man	freshwater turtle
37.	DAMI terib memei oni	MA ma	marine turtle
38.	BOROI mardu vacourtan gandolige messis	MA ma	marine turtle
39.	KARKAR ISLAND banau limilam sarol	MA ma	turtle (general)
40.	WAB luglug amom	MA ma	<i>Chelonia mydas</i> <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>
41.	WUVULLU ISLAND alaba, laba	MA ma	<i>Chelonia mydas</i> (young)
42.	WUVULLU ISLAND pomu	MA ma	<i>Chelonia mydas</i> (adult)
43.	WUVULLU ISLAND matani	MA ma	<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>
44.	WUVULLU ISLAND boihawa, biwa bihiu, withu boihie, eeh moeh moi	MA ma	<i>Chelonia mydas</i> <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> <i>Caretta caretta</i>
45.	HARENGAN ISLAND pawar, pawa, pawali peleled, bolebu, polebu kareng, kareen, keheng	MA ma	<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> <i>Chelonia mydas</i> <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>
46.	HARENGAN ISLAND boihawa, biwa bihiu, withu kareng, kareen pawar puniuru pimbat	MA ma	<i>Chelonia mydas</i> <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> <i>Caretta caretta</i>
47.	AHUS ISLAND pawar honwanen ahulam masang	MA ma	<i>Chelonia mydas</i> <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> <i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i> <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>
48.	HERMIT ISLANDS honwanen ahulam masang	MA ma	<i>Chelonia mydas</i> <i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i> <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>

49. PAK ISLAND	<i>Chelonia mydas</i> <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>	marine turtle
loquis	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	
kehang	<i>?Leptochelys olivacea</i>	
kalpau	<i>?Careta caretta</i>	
paroul		
aboulam		
50. TONG ISLAND	<i>Chelonia mydas</i> <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>	marine turtle
karai	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	
kareng		
kalipitch		
changine	<i>Chelonia mydas</i> <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>	marine turtle
kareng	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	
kalipeach	<i>?Careta caretta</i>	
bowomon		
52. LOU ISLAND	<i>Chelonia mydas</i> <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>	marine turtle
pioun	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	
nik	<i>?Careta caretta</i>	
kareng		
alimpis	<i>Chelonia mydas</i> <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>	marine turtle
pawach	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	
kachek	<i>?Careta caretta</i>	
pitiu		
moah		
54. AMIK ISLAND	<i>Chelonia mydas</i> <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>	marine turtle
phamean	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	
hon		
masang		
aboulam		
55. WOODLARK ISLANDS	<i>Chelonia mydas</i> <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>	marine turtle
tadiyai, tadiyaya	<i>Caretta caretta</i>	
ullalita		
pava, pav, pawa		
ponowan, punowan		
56. ESA'ALA, NORMANBY ISLAND		marine turtle (general)
wavo wavo		
57. MUUYUW		marine turtle
gonam		

58. DOBU ISLAND	<i>Chelonia mydas</i> <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>	marine turtle
59. SEHULEA, NORMANBY ISLAND	<i>Chelonia mydas, Eretmochelys imbricata</i>	
tameara	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	
tameara	<i>?Careta caretta</i>	
60. YELE		take
wedara		
61. BUNAMA, FERGUSSON ISLAND		marine turtle
wenu		
62. SALAMO, FERGUSSON ISLAND	<i>Chelonia mydas</i> <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>	marine turtle
iaeawa	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	
janya		
63. IDUNA, GOODENOUGH ISLAND		marine turtle
wedara		
64. IAMALELE, FERGUSSON ISLAND	<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>	marine turtle
vono		
65. CONFLICT ATOLL (Heatwole 1975)		marine turtle
wonu		
66. TAGULA ISLAND	<i>Chelonia mydas</i> <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>	marine turtle
gobutaiyi		
67. LOSUA, TROBRIAND ISLAND	<i>Chelonia mydas, Eretmochelys imbricata</i>	marine turtle
wonu		
68. WATANOU		large marine turtles
waigaportana		
69. BUBUGUETA		small marine turtles
toktitikan		
70. CAPE VOGEL		marine turtles
tutukitahu		
71. KAPUTA		wadala
wadala		
72. MASELE		CAKE VOGEL
kawadui		
73. KUMALU		kekepona
marum		
74. AZERA		woleara
aror		
75. SUENA		maboroboro
keposoy		
76. MANGGA BUANG		monu
simimpi		
77. NEW IRELAND PROVINCE		large freshwater turtle
kapokahuh		
78. TANGA ISLAND		freshwater turtle
fun		
79. ELOAUE, MUSSAU ISLAND		marine turtle
kuhit		
80. LAMBON ISLAND		marine turtle
maringana		
81. MAPUA ISLAND		marine turtle
manbu		
vo		
82. MANGA		marine turtle (general)
pun		
83. LAMUSSANG		freshwater turtle
un		
84. MINIAFIA		freshwater turtle
boritis		
85. GEBUNAM		freshwater turtle
koragame		
86. FAIWOL		long-necked swamp turtle
atobom		
87. BINE		(festival)
marabus		
88. TAPISALIK		short-necked river turtle
baturo		
89. TAPISALIK		
tapiwik		
90. TANGA ISLAND		
fun		
91. NEW IR		
unien		
92. TAPISALIK		
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93. TANGA ISLAND		
fun		
94. TAPISALIK		
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koa yudika koaiog ubade	freshwater turtle (general) <i>Emydura subglobosa</i> <i>Eiseya novaequestris</i> <i>Chełodina</i> spp. —	waru amul onatu naugria turtle (general)
89. KIWAI—TURETURE—SOUTHERN KIWAI	marine turtle (general) <i>Eremochelys imbricata</i> <i>Chełodina mydas</i>	muwa diparo
gamo, gamu kararagamo, kara gamo ia hiriware (Riley and Ray 1930-1)	<i>Chełodina mydas</i> <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> <i>Caretta caretta</i> <i>Carettochelys insculpta</i> ? <i>Pelochelys bironi</i> <i>Chełodina, Emydura, Eiseya</i>	Chelodina, <i>Emydura, Eiseya</i> spp. spp. spp. spp. spp.
diridiri pitu gamo maiwa gamo anowa gamo, anva margai gamo mamurudo gamo panowa	<i>Chełodina mydas</i> <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> <i>Caretta caretta</i> <i>Carettochelys insculpta</i> ? <i>Pelochelys bironi</i> <i>Chełodina, Emydura, Eiseya</i>	Chelodina, <i>Emydura, Eiseya</i> spp. spp. spp. spp. spp. spp.
90. KIWAI—PARAMA—EASTERN COASTAL KIWAI	marine turtle marine turtle	waru JARI cherwat
luset wabia KIWAI—JASA—ISLAND KIWAI	marine turtle (general) <i>Emydura subglobosa</i> <i>Eiseya novaequestris</i> <i>Chełodina, Emydura, Eiseya</i>	102. BUJI waru
91. KIWAI—JASA—ISLAND KIWAI	marine turtle (general) <i>Emydura subglobosa</i> <i>Eiseya novaequestris</i> <i>Chełodina, Emydura, Eiseya</i>	WEST NEW BRITAIN PROVINCE
gamo (Riley and Ray 1930-1)	turtle (general)	103. ARAWE (Hediger 1934)
kararo (Riley and Ray 1930-1)	<i>Emydura imbricata</i>	gaonam
pamoia (Riley and Ray 1930-1)	<i>Chełodina, Emydura, Eiseya</i>	HOSKINS
auwo apuru gamo piitu diridiri gamo	<i>Caretta caretta</i> <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	104. rava bolu
anoa	<i>Emydura imbricata</i>	105. GARU masse
93. KIWAI—WABUDA—WABUDA	turtle (general)	ora
gamo	<i>Chełodina, Emydura, Eiseya</i>	kamaogaha
umamakabere	spp.	MAREM
94. KIWAI—SISIAME—BAMU KIWAU	marine turtle (general)	nemo
anoa	(Riley and Ray 1930-1)	papal
gamo	freshwater turtle (general)	bung
95. KIWAU—PIRUPIRU—MORIGI	marine turtle (general)	inabung
gamo	(Riley and Ray 1930-1)	NAKANAI
96. DABU—SICIADABU	marine turtle (general)	eboke
waru (Riley and Ray 1930-1)	turtle (general)	lapago vovostasmui

GLOSSARY OF TURTLE NAMES

lasasa	<i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i>	penyu sisik penyu biasa penyu mangong penyu blimbing labi-labi (De Roodj 1915; Neill 1973)
WEST SEPILK PROVINCE	freshwater turtle	<i>Caretta caretta</i> <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>
108. KARKAR	freshwater turtle	<i>Pelochelys gibroni</i> freshwater turtle
kwiapi	freshwater turtle	kurakura, kurah-kurah penju bulus (Neill 1973)
109. AMANAB	freshwater turtle	baning (De Roodj 1915; Neill 1973)
mangas	freshwater turtle	kekuve
110. MIAMMIN	freshwater turtle	tuturing sisir (Romeyn and Haenfeld 1926)
maabitom	freshwater turtle	ASMAT (Drabbe 1959)
maabsesi	freshwater turtle	jenam
111. VANIMO	freshwater turtle	mbu
mulang	marine turtle	paka
muyu	marine turtle	mbapet
mombi	marine turtle	mbuk
mulu	marine turtle	sop we
TORRES STRAIT (QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA)	marine turtle (general), non-mating	MANOKWARI (Delsman 1951)
112. MABUAG (Lawrie 1970)	marine turtle	wau taku
waru (D'Albertis 1881; Haddon 1901; Lawrie 1970)	<i>Caretta caretta</i>	wau mis
maiwa	<i>Eremochelys imbricata</i>	marab
unawa	matting marine turtle	kenep
sawal, saual	matting marine turtle	DEMA (Baal 1966)
suriang (Haddon 1901)	season of mating turtles	baba
tupai	marine turtle fat	gaw
wibad	marine turtle eggs	BERIK (Westrum and Westrum 1975)
pagasiu, madu	marine turtle shoulder meat	iwil
dedeal	marine turtle breast bone	SOBEI (Sterner 1975)
kunai baba	marine turtle tail meat	arma
nam	marine turtle	CENTRAL SENTANI (Hartzler 1976)
kaisu	marine turtle shell	epu
kamad	mating marine turtle	ISIRAWA (Oguri and Erickson 1975)
BAHASA INDONESIAN	penyu, penju	fona

The main language is Bahasa Indonesian.

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