

SONORA MUD TURTLE

(*Kinosternon sonoriense*)



NATIVE

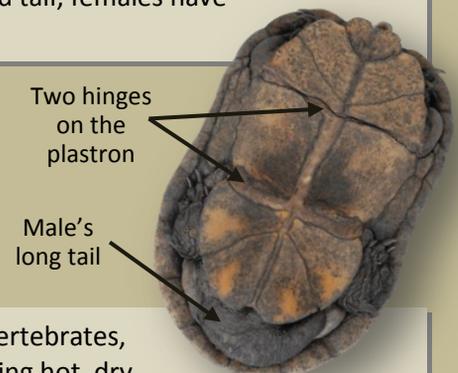


Description: Small turtle (up to 7 inches long) with an olive-brown carapace that has a ridge or keel on the top of the shell running from front to back. Throat and neck are brown with yellow reticulations and prominent tubercles (bumps) under the chin. Two hinges on the plastron allow them to close their shell tightly. Males have a concave plastron and a long spine-tipped tail; females have a flat plastron and a short tail.

Habitat: Aquatic; may be seen on land traveling between bodies of water. Found in and near creeks, rivers, lakes, stock tanks, and ciénegas in central and southeastern Arizona.

Behavior: Omnivorous; eats snails, aquatic invertebrates, tadpoles, carrion, and some plant matter. During hot, dry periods, they become inactive in the mud along the water's edge where they can remain underground for more than a year during prolonged drought. Usually diurnal, they become more nocturnal during the monsoon season. Mud turtles hibernate underground during the winter.

If you find one: Let it be unless it is in a situation where its welfare is questionable or threatened, in which case, please contact the [nearest Game and Fish office](#) or the Phoenix Herpetological Society for information and recommendations.



*A hunting license is required to remove mud turtles from the wild in Arizona. See current regulations at www.azgfd.gov.