



Gulf Coast Box Turtle

Terrapene carolina major

Description: Gulf Coast box turtles are the largest of the North American box turtle species. Its carapace (the upper shell) can reach 8.5 inches. Coloration is usually brown with scattered spots or radiating lines.

Range: Along the Gulf of Mexico from Eastern Louisiana to Florida.

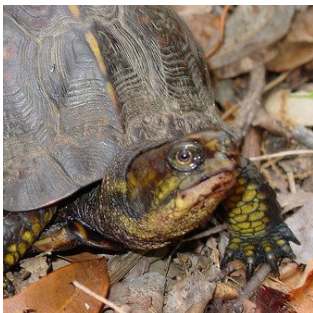
Habitat: Moist woodlands.

Life Span: Over 50 years.

Natural Diet: These turtles are omnivores which means they prefer a variety of plant material, fungi, invertebrates, and even carrion.

Zoo Diet: A variety of chopped fruits and vegetables plus supplements of worms, crickets, and occasionally small mice.

Behavior: When threatened, a box turtle will withdraw the vulnerable portions of its body (legs, head, neck, and tail) completely inside their hard shell. The hinge on the plastron (bottom part of shell) will close tightly to protect the box turtle from the sharp teeth, claws, or beak of its attacker.



Reproduction: Females dig shallow depressions where she will lay up to 8 eggs. The eggs hatch approximately 2 months later.

Conservation Status:
Has not been assessed by the IUCN.



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