

## *Mauremys reevesi* (Gray, 1831), familia Geoemydidae, en liberdade no Noroeste de España: o primeiro de moitos en Europa?

## Free-ranging *Mauremys reevesii* (Gray, 1831), family Geoemydidae, in North-western Spain: the first of many in Europe?.

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### RESUMO / ABSTRACT

Un exemplar subadulto de sapoconcho chinés de tres quillas (*Mauremys reevesii*) foi capturado nun humidal protexido incluído na Rede Natura 2000 no Noroeste de España. Discútese as implicacións na conservación das liberacións masivas desta especie.

A free ranging sub-adult of Chinese three-keeled turtle (*Mauremys reevesii*) was captured in a protected wetland included in Natura 2000 network in Nw Spain. Conservation implications of massive releases of this species are discussed.

### PALABRAS CLAVE / KEY WORDS

*Mauremys reevesii*, alien, Galicia.

Nesta nota reportase a primeira observación dun exemplar en liberdade de *Mauremys* (*Chinemys*) *reevesii* na Zona de Especial Conservación (ZEC) das Gándaras de Budiño, Galicia (España), parte da Rede Natura 2000. O 5 de Abril de 2016, un exemplar subadulto de *M.reevesii* foi atopado nunha antiga canle de rego. Este feito é especialmente preocupante debido a presenza dunha pequena e isolada poboación de sapoconcho europeo (*Emys orbicularis*) (AYRES, 2014). A tartaruga chinesa de tres quillas (*Mauremys reevesii*) (GRAY, 1831) e unha especie de mediano tamaño, ata 30 cm, nativa do Este de Asia. É unha especie valorada no comercio global de mascotas e, de xeito similar a outras especies de tartarugas, as liberacións intencionadas e os escapes non intencionados foron a causa da súa introdución e presenza en varios países arredor do mundo (LOVICH *et al.*, 2011, FULLER *et al.*, 2016). Esta especie é capaz de reproducirse en semiliberdade en Galicia (GARCÍA *et al.*, 2004). Ata o momento non se coñecen outros datos da presenza de exemplares asilvestrados de *M.reevesii* na Península Ibérica.

In this note is reported the first finding of a free-ranging individual of *Mauremys* (*Chinemys*) *reevesii* in the Special Conservation Area (SCA) of Gandaras de Budiño, Galicia (Spain), part of the the Natura 2000 network. On April, 5th 2016, a subadult *M.reevesii* was captured in an old irrigation channel. This finding is especially concerning due to the presence of a small, isolated, population of European Pond turtle (*Emys orbicularis*) (AYRES, 2014). The Chinese three-keeled turtle (*Mauremys reevesii*) (GRAY, 1831) is a medium size species (up to 30 cm) native to East Asia. It is a valued species in the global pet trade and, similar to other species of turtles kept as pets, intentional releases and unintentional escapes have led to its exotic introduction and presence in several countries around the world (LOVICH *et al.*, 2011, FULLER *et al.*, 2016). This species is able to breed under semi-natural conditions in Galicia (GARCÍA *et al.*, 2004).

There is no information about other findings of feral *M.reevesii* in the Iberian Peninsula.

Alien turtles seriously impact native turtles.

As tartarugas exóticas teñen un severo impacto sobre os sapoconchos autóctonos. En Europa demostrouse que as tartarugas exóticas compiten fortemente cos sapoconchos europeos (CADI & JOLY, 2003, 2004, POLO-CAVIA *et al.*, 2010), e adicionalmente reportouse a transferencia e intercambio de parasitos que nalgúns casos causaron mortalidade de sapoconchos autóctonos (IGLESIAS *et al.*, 2015, MEYER *et al.*, 2015).

Ademais, as especies do xénero *Mauremys* teñen unha extraordinaria capacidade de hibridación con especies do mesmo e outros xéneros relacionados (WINK *et al.*, 2001, SCHILDE *et al.*, 2004, GALGON & FRITZ, 2002, BUSKIRK *et al.*, 2005). Polo tanto, a liberación de exemplares de *Mauremys spp.* (anteriormente incluídas nos xéneros *Ocadia* e *Chinemys*) en Europa supón grave risco de hibridación coas especies nativas *M.leprosa*, *M. rivulata* e *M. caspica*.

In Europe, it has been demonstrated that alien turtles compete strongly with native European turtles (CADI & JOLY, 2003, 2004, POLO-CAVIA *et al.*, 2010), and additionally it has been reported the transference and spill-over of parasites that, in some cases, have resulted in mortalities of native turtle species (IGLESIAS *et al.*, 2015, MEYER *et al.*, 2015).

Moreover, species in the genus *Mauremys* have an extraordinary capacity of hybridization with species from the same and other genera (WINK *et al.*, 2001, SCHILDE *et al.* 2004, GALGON & FRITZ, 2002, BUSKIRK *et al.*, 2005). Therefore, the release of *Mauremys spp.* (formerly *Ocadia* and *Chinemys*) in Europe poses a grave risk of hybridization with native *M.leprosa*, *M.rivulata* and *M.caspica*.

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