

Elongated Tortoise *Indotestudo elongata* at Kaeng Krachan National Park, Thailand

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Observer: Charles Currin.
Photograph by: Charles Currin.
Subject identified by: Charles Currin, Nick Baker.

Location: Ban Krang, Kaeng Krachan National Park (KKNP), Phetchaburi Province, Thailand.
Elevation: 350 metres (estimated from Google Earth).
Habitat: Lowland, secondary forest.
Date and time: 10 July 2017, 08:00 hrs.

Identity of subject: Elongated Tortoise, *Indotestudo elongata* (Reptilia: Testudines: Testudinidae).

Description of record: Whilst exploring a disused logging track a single *Indotestudo elongata*, with an estimated carapace length of 30 cm, was seen moving along the edge of the track. It was observed for five minutes, after which it slowly walked into the undergrowth at the edge of the forest (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1

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Remarks: Three species of land tortoise are currently known from Thailand (Das, 2010): Asian Giant Tortoise (*Manouria emys*), Impressed Tortoise (*Manouria impressa*) and Elongated Tortoise (*Indotestudo elongata*). The tortoise illustrated here is identified as *Indotestudo elongata* based on the domed carapace, and yellowish-brown scutes patterned with large, black blotches (Das, 2010).

Indotestudo elongata was not listed as extant within KKNP by Pauwels & Chan-ard (2006), but was listed as extant in Kaeng Krachan District, Phetchaburi Province, Thailand by Pauwels *et al* (2009).

This is the only encounter the author has had with the species after visiting KKNP more than 50 times, and from this it is inferred that sightings of the species at the national park are uncommon. *Indotestudo elongata* is categorised as 'Endangered' in an assessment made by International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in 2000 (Buhlmann *et al*, 2000).

References:

Buhlmann, K., Rhodin, A. & van Dijk, P.P. (2000). *Indotestudo elongata*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. < <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/10824/0> > (Accessed 23 July 2017).

Das, I. (2010). *A Field Guide to the Reptiles of South-east Asia*. New Holland Publishers (UK) Ltd. 376 pp.

Pauwels, O. S. & Chan-ard, T. (2006). Reptiles of Kaeng Krachan National Park, Western Thailand. *Natural History Bulletin of the Siam Society*, 54(1), 89-108.

Pauwels, O. S., Chan-ard, T., Wanchai, P., Kheowyoo, B. & Bauer, A. M. (2009). Reptile diversity of Phetchaburi Province, western Thailand: an update. *Hamadryad*, 34(1), 9-21.