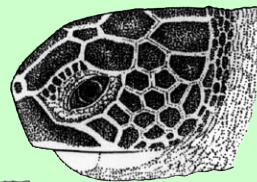


Leatherback
Dermochelys coriacea

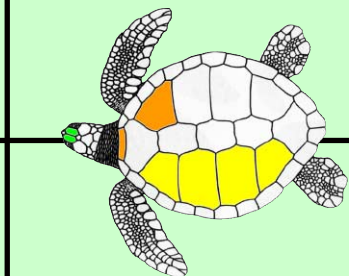
Leathery, no scutes;
5 long ridges

One pair prefrontal scutes

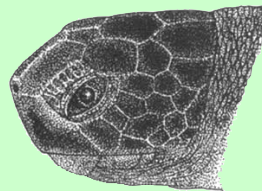


Green
Chelonia mydas

**4 costal (lateral) scutes;
First costal scute does not touch nuchae**

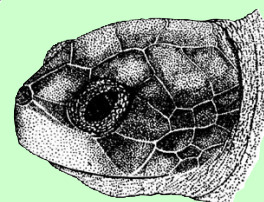


Restricted primarily to the
eastern Pacific Ocean;
Dark pigmentation



Black*

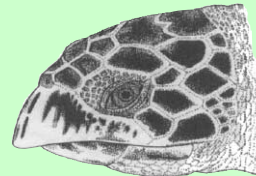
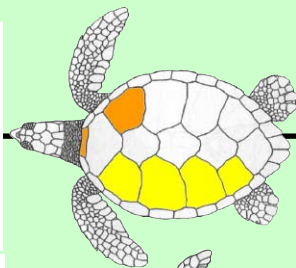
Found in
tropical coastal
waters of
Australia



Flatback
Natator depressus

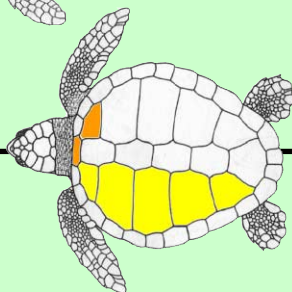
Hard carapace (shell) with
large scutes (shell plates)

Two pairs
prefrontal scutes;
overlapping
scutes



Hawksbill
Eretmochelys imbricata

5 or 6 costal scutes;
Carapace not circular

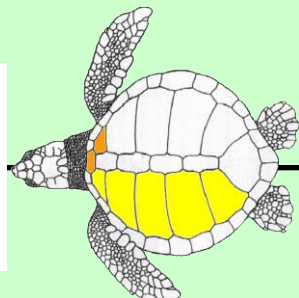


Loggerhead
Caretta caretta

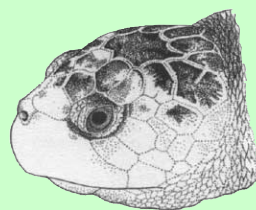
**5 or more costal (lateral) scutes;
First costal scute touches nuchae**

Carapace wide and
almost circular

5 costal scutes;
Nearly circular

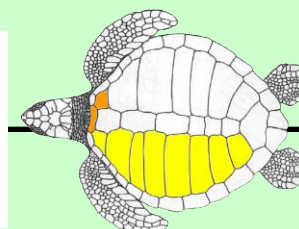


Restricted primarily to
the Gulf of Mexico and
Atlantic coast of the USA

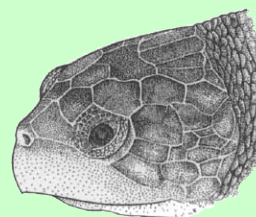


Kemp's Ridley
Lepidochelys kempii

usu. 6 or more
costal scutes



Found in tropical waters
of the Pacific, Indian and
South Atlantic Oceans



Olive Ridley
Lepidochelys olivacea

Species Descriptions

Common Name

Spanish Name

Scientific Name

Leatherback

Baula, Tortuga Laúd, Tora

Dermochelys coriacea

Color dark gray/black with white spots

Carapace

tapered; leathery with 5 ridges

Max Length 165 - 180 cm

Plastron

relatively small

Max Weight 400 - 500 kg

Head

tooth-like notch on either side of upper jaw; no scales

Range all oceans, subarctic to tropical; pelagic

Green Turtle

Tortuga Verde, Tortuga Blanca

Chelonia mydas

Color J: radiating streaks; A: brown, buff

Carapace

4 costal scutes

Max Length 120 cm

Plastron

yellowish; 4 inframarginal scutes

Max Weight 230 kg

Head

round face; serrated jaw; 1 pair elongate prefrontal scales

Range all subtropical and tropical seas; bays and coastal waters

Black Turtle*

Tortuga Negra, Prieta

Chelonia mydas

Color black or grayish with black markings

Carapace

4 costal scutes

Max Length 90 cm

Plastron

cream to gray; 4 inframarginal scutes

Max Weight 150 kg

Head

round face; serrated jaw; 1 pair elongate prefrontal scales

Range East Pacific Ocean; bays and coastal waters

*The status of the Black turtle or east Pacific green turtle, sometime referred to as *Chelonia agassizii* or *C. mydas agassizii*, remains uncertain. Recent genetic evidence supports an Atlantic-Mediterranean vs. Indian-Pacific grouping, while morphological and behavioral data suggest an east Pacific species or subspecies.

Flatback Turtle

Kikila, Tortuga Franca Oriental

Natator depressus

Color olive grey

Carapace

4 costal scutes; broad and round; upturned margins

Max Length 100 cm

Plastron

yellowish; 4 inframarginal scutes

Max Weight 90 kg

Head

preocular scale; wide; flat; triangular

Range tropical coastal Australia

Hawksbill Turtle

Tortuga Carey

Eretmochelys imbricata

Color amber and brown streaks

Carapace

4 costal scutes; (usually) overlapping scutes; oval

Max Length 90 cm

Plastron

cream with dark blotches front and rear; 4 inframarginal scutes

Max Weight 80 kg

Head

curved beak; distinct overbite; 2 pair prefrontal scales

Range all oceans; tropical waters; reef areas

Loggerhead

Caguama, Amarilla, Cabezona, Tortuga Boba *Caretta caretta*

Color red brown to brown

Carapace

longer than wide; 5 or more costal scutes, first very small

Max Length 90 - 110 cm

Plastron

yellow to orange, 3 inframarginal scutes

Max Weight 100 - 180 kg

Head

large head; 4 or more prefrontal scales

Range all oceans; primarily temperate waters; near shore, often associate with structures (i.e., wrecks, platforms)

Kemp's Ridley

Tortuga Lora, Cotorra

Lepidochelys kempii

Color gray to light olive green

Carapace

round; 5 (sometimes 6) costal scutes

Max Length 70 cm

Plastron

white to yellow; 4 inframarginal scutes with pores

Max Weight 40 - 50 kg

Head

triangular; relatively large; 2 pair prefrontal scales

Range Gulf of Mexico, eastern USA; coastal; < 16° N

Olive Ridley

Tortuga Golfina, Tortuga Olivacea, Parlama *Lepidochelys olivacea*

Color gray to olive green

Carapace

nearly round; 6 - 9 costal scutes, number may be asymmetrical

Max Length 70 - 80 cm

Plastron

cream/white; 4 inframarginal scutes with pores

Max Weight 45 - 60 kg

Head

triangular; relatively large; 2 pair prefrontal scales

Range tropical waters of Pacific, Indian and South Atlantic Oceans; pelagic

Produced in cooperation with:



SUGGESTED REFERENCES

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