

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION

African Herp News publishes brief notes of new geographical distributions (preferably at least 100 km from the nearest published record) of amphibians and reptiles on the African continent and adjacent regions, including the Arabian peninsula, Madagascar, and other islands in the Indian Ocean.

A standard format is to be used, as follows: **SCIENTIFIC NAME**; Common name (for sources, see Natural History Notes); **Locality** (country, province or state, location, quarter-degree unit, and latitude and longitude if available; elevation above sea level; use metric units); **Date** (day, month, year); **Collector(s)**; **Place of deposition and museum accession number** (required if specimens are preserved); **Comments** (including data on the size, colour and taxonomic characters, eg. Scallation, webbing, especially for taxonomically problematic taxa; and nearest published locality record(s) in km; references to be quoted in the text). Submitted by: **NAME**, Address (in parentheses).

Records submitted should be based on specimens deposited in a recognised collection. New South African province names must be used.

Notes submitted in an incorrect format or style will be returned to the authors.

**REPTILIA
CHELONIDAE****PELOMEDUSIDAE*****Pelusios marani* Bour, 2000.****Maran's mud turtle.**

Gabon, Ngounié Province, Douya-Onoy Dpt., Dibotsa River at Dibotsa village, 2°2'29"S 11°7'55"E; alt. 70 m. asl; collected by Dibotsa fishermen; 15 November 2001. IRSNB 16236 (field number P801).

This juvenile specimen is the first mentioned since the series listed in the original description of the species. It was found 90 km southeast of the type locality Yombi, Ngounié Prov., Tsamba-Magotsi Dpt. Dibotsa is approximately 60 km from the border of the Congo-Brazzaville; the presence of *P. marani* in this latter country is thus highly predictable. This specimen (total length of carapace 108 mm, maximal width of carapace 79.5 mm) has been found in the muddy banks of the river, in strict syntopy with numerous *Xenopus* sp. (coll. IRSNB). Fishermen say the species is locally abundant, and it is a regular food item for the Dibotsa villagers, who call it *ibongh-i-moussiron* (*ibongh* = turtle, *i* = in, *moussiron* = forest) in Pounou language because it is mainly found during the dry season in the forest, or *ibongh ibongh* (*ibongh* = dark brown). Although *P. marani*, like every chelonian everywhere in Gabon, undergoes a high human predation pressure (see also Bour, 2000. *Manouria* 3 (8): 23-24), its discovery in a new locality, reasonably extending its known range, is a very positive and encouraging news.

Acknowledgements

This interesting record is part of the results of field surveys sponsored by the WWF Ecoregion Program. We thank Emile Mamfoumbi Kombila and Marc Mpami (Direction de la Faune et de la Chasse, Libreville), Dr Sébastien Lavoué (MNHN, Paris), Alexandre Pepy Boutolini (WWF-CARPO), and Dr Georges Lenglet and Georges Coulon (IRSNB) for their kind help.

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BIBLIOTHÈQUE
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