

# 中国海龟的保护问题

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在中国,共有 5 种海龟会在东侧的大陆棚沿岸海域及南中国海出现,它们分别是绿海龟(*Chelonia mydas*),蠍龟(*Caretta caretta*),玳瑁(*Eretmochelys imbricata*),丽龟(*Lepidochelys olivacea*),及棱皮龟(*Dermochelys coriacea*)。在这 5 种海龟中,以绿海龟的数量为最多。此外在 5 种海龟中,仅有绿海龟、蠍龟及玳瑁会在我国领土沿海的沙滩上产卵。

和其他的沿海民族一样,数千年来,沿海省份的居民,不但捕食海龟及龟蛋,而且利用其部分的身体做为中药材来治疗高血压等疾病,或将其皮甲制成标本出售,稚龟亦被当成水族宠物加以出售图利。根据估计,从 1959 年到 1989 年间,在南中国海至少有 3 万头海龟被捕杀,这不包括其他地区及 1989 年以后之捕杀。近年来,虽然海龟已列为保护动物,加以立法保护,严禁骚扰、捕杀、非法买卖等行为,然而在有些地区,海龟在海上及陆上栖地所遭到杀戮出售之情形,仍然时有所闻。

我国海龟保护的问题,主要是国人对自然资源保育的观念普遍不健全。虽然,自古以来国人对保育的观念已多所著墨,但近百年来由于人口的激增,对自然资源的需求亦随之增加,然而,因缺乏适当的经营管理,资源的破坏与过度利用与开发的情形十分严重,除了过度捕杀外,大部分海龟在陆上与海上

的栖息地亦遭到严重的破坏,这包括龟卵的挖掘、炸鱼与毒鱼、使用破坏性的渔具、过度的挖沙及不当的沙滩开发等行为,由于海龟至少要长 20 年以上才会成熟,而这些行为不但对海龟的生存及繁衍后代有负面的影响,而且对生态环境的完整会造成无法弥补的损失。如果等到海龟数量太少时再来谈保育,可能因数量不足或栖息地太少或无处产卵而来不及了!

我国海龟保护的另一个问题,是对它的了解太少。截至目前为止,除了对台湾地区产卵的绿海龟外,我国对海龟生态的研究很少,对其陆上及海上的行踪,亦大多不知,即使在台湾地区,我们对它的生态研究,仍然不够多。对于一个属大洋长距离洄游又只在产卵期才上岸产卵的物种而言,在缺乏这些重要资讯的情形下,海龟的保育工作,将十分难以推展,一切的努力,也会事倍功半的。

因此,加强生态研究和推广保育宣导乃为拯救灭绝中的海龟族群之重要方法。在正确的栖地与族群保护措施的执行下,不仅海龟族群得以复原,而且相关的海洋资源与环境亦可获得适当的保育。长远而言,这些行为不仅可以改善沿海居民的生活,对生活品质的提升,亦有实际上的助益。

## THE PROBLEMS OF SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION IN CHINA

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There are five species of sea turtles distributed widely along the continental shelf on the east coast of Chian. They are the green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), the loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*), the olive ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), and the leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*). The green turtle is the most common, and in fact, only the green, loggerhead, and hawksbill turtles can be found nesting on Chinese beaches.

As in many other maritime states, for thousands of years the coastal residents have harvested sea turtles for food and utilized parts of their bodies for medicines and ornaments. Hatchlings have also been sold in pet shops. According to one study, between 1959 and 1989 at least thirty thousand sea turtles were slaughtered in the South China Sea. Although all sea turtles have been listed as endangered and are under full legal protection in Taiwan, they are still slaughtered for profit on both land and sea in other areas because sea turtles are only listed as "threatened" (as opposed to "endangered").

One of the major problems of sea turtle conservation in China is the unwillingness to conserve certain critical natural resources. Although such concepts have been documented even in ancient Chinese classics, the increase in the human population in recent centuries has led to greatly increased demands on natural resources. However, due to inappropriate manage-

ment policies, many resources are over-utilized and the sea turtles habitats, both on the land and in the sea, have been seriously damaged. Apart from massive and illegal sand mining operations, coastal construction projects, dynamite and poison fishing, and the use of other types of destructive fishing gears, the turtle have also been impacted by over-harvesting and egg poaching. Because it takes at least 20 years for the sea turtle to reach maturity, these activities have not only seriously affected the survival and reproduction of the sea turtle population, but also compromised the integrity of the ecosystem. Under these conditions, it is not known whether, or to what extent, sea turtle populations could be restored or even maintained, but as with many other endangered species, there is probably a point at which the population levels will fall so far, and the remaining areas of natural habitat will be so small and dispersed, that the decline towards extinction—at least locally—will have become irreversible.

Another major problem of sea turtle conservation in China is that too little is known about these animals. In fact, apart from some recent research on the nesting ecology of the green turtles in Taiwan, almost nothing is known about the sea turtles marine and terrestrial habitats in China as a whole. And even in Taiwan, our understanding of these animals is still very limited. Conservation of species the undertake long-distance oceanic migrations and only emerge to nest on land during the breeding season will be very difficult without sufficient knowledge of their life histories.

Therefore, an increase in ecological research and the promotion of public awareness will both be necessary if we hope to save these endangered species. Conservation methods should aim not only at increasing the number of turtles but at preserving and restoring their marine and terrestrial habitats. In the long run, while these efforts would be intended primarily to benefit the sea turtles, coastal residents should also find their “quality of life” will have been enhanced.

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## 《医学实验动物学》专著简介

第三军医大学实验动物学教研室魏泓博士主编,军内外 75 名长期从事实验动物和动物实验工作的专家学者参编的《医学实验动物学》专著已于 1998 年 3 月由四川科技出版社出版发行。

本书由实验动物标准化和动物实验标准化两个相关的理论体系构成,具有系统化、内容主线明确、与医学的联系强化、先进性及实用性等特点,创新性较强。本书除包括学科概述、实验动物遗传学和微生物学控制分类体系、实验动物的环境和营养控制、常用实验动物的特点及其应用、实验动物的选择、动物实验基本技术和方法等实验动物学的基本内容外,还对免疫缺陷动物、实验动物的胚胎工程、转基因动物等实验动物学前沿领域进行充分论述。并邀请了具有丰富实践经验的 36 名医学专家编写了人类疾病动物模型章节的内容,使其具有较大突破,更具有实用性。本书可用作医药院校研究生、本科生及其他层次学生的实验动物学教材,也是实验动物科技工作者和从事动物实验的医学生物学工作者不可多得的参考书。

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更正:本刊 1998 年第 1 期第 5 页“中国海蚯蚓属蚯蚓一新种”一文正文右栏中,第 1 行应为“肾管近孔处”,第 5 行应为“可达第 XV111 节”,特此更正,并向作者、读者致歉。