

Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

Ernst, C.H. 2003. *Trachemys callirostris*.

***Trachemys callirostris* (Gray)**
South American Slider

Emys callirostris Gray 1856:25. Type locality, "America;" restricted to "Unterlaufe des Rio Magdalena," Colombia by Müller (1940). Holotype, British Museum of Natural History (BMNH) 1947.3.4.87 (originally 1854.10.16.58), a stuffed juvenile, presented by the Haslar Hospital (examined by the author).

Emys callorostris: Gray 1856: fig. 12B. *Ex errore*.

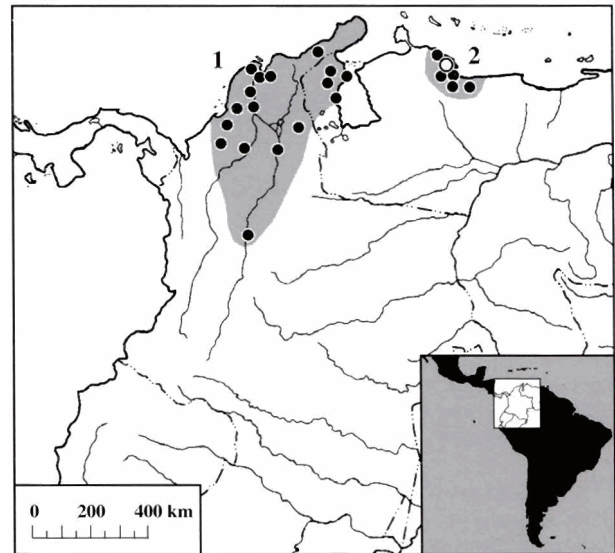
Callichelys callirostris: Gray 1863:181.



FIGURE 1. Adult *Trachemys callirostris chichiriviche* (photograph by author).



FIGURE 2. Hatchling *Trachemys callirostris callirostris*, dorsal and ventral views (photograph by Roger W. Barbour).



MAP. The circle marks the type locality of *Trachemys callirostris chichiriviche*, the type locality of *T. c. callirostris* is too vague to plot; dots indicate other records.

Pseudemys callirostris: Cope 1887:22.

Chrysemys ornata [var.] *callirostris*: Boulenger 1889:82.

Chrysemys ornata callirostris: Siebenrock 1907:790.

Pseudemys scripta callirostris: Williams 1956:159.

Pseudemys ornata callirostris: Wermuth and Mertens 1961:148.

Chrysemys callirostris: Weaver and Rose 1967:63.

Chrysemys scripta callirostris: Weaver and Rose 1967:63.

Trachemys scripta callirostris: Iverson 1985:4.

Trachemys ascita callirostris: Tafur and Tapias 1993:208. *Lapsus calami*.

Trachemys dorbigni callirostris: Helm and Giebner 1998:21.

Trachemys callirostris: Seidel 2002a:289. First use of present combination.

• **CONTENT.** Two subspecies are recognized: *Trachemys callirostris callirostris* and *T. c. chichiriviche*.

• **DEFINITION.** Carapaces of adults range from 19–33 cm (females 19–33 cm, males 19–30 cm). The oval carapace is highest at the center, or slightly posterior to the center, is widest posterior to the center, has a weak medial keel, and is only slightly serrate posteriorly. The vertebrals are wider than long, and the marginals behind the bridge are flared (more so in young individuals). The adult carapace is green, olive, or brown; each pleural has a yellow, orange, or reddish, dark-centered ocellus; and wavy light lines are present on the vertebrals. Each dorsal marginal has a single, curved, yellow, orange or red bar posterior to its center, and a dark spot at the posterior seam; each lower marginal has a dark spot at its posterior seam and a light bar. The light marks are most pronounced in hatchlings and juveniles, but the ocelli usually fade with age until only the dark central spots remain in older individuals. Some older males may become melanistic. The yellow bridge is long (at least 33–35% of carapace length) and bears a pattern of narrow, dark-bordered light lines. The long, hingeless plastron is broad and flat, with a shallow posterior notch. The abdominal scute is the longest, followed by either the anal or femoral, and then the pectoral, humeral, and gular, respectively. The plastron is yellow or horn-colored, with either a bold, intricate pattern of dark lines occupying most of its surface (*T. c. callirostris*) or a narrow, medial

pattern of dark lines (*T. c. chichiriviche*). The plastral pattern is most pronounced in young individuals, but fades with age, and may disappear completely in some old adults. The head is large and rounded; the conical snout projects only slightly (sometimes upward in *T. s. chichiriviche*). The upper jaw has a shallow medial notch, and its triturating surfaces are shallow and serrate. The jaws contain a series of dark-bordered, light ocelli or bars. The dark-bordered, orange, red, or brownish postorbital stripe is either separated from the orbit or only narrowly contacts it. It is either rounded anteriorly or narrowly pointed, and may continue posteriorly onto the neck as a narrow stripe or may end rounded short of the neck. The skin is olive-brown or green. The toes are webbed, and the limbs and tail are patterned with light stripes.

Males have smaller, less domed carapaces, and long thick tails with the vent positioned behind the posterior marginals, but they lack the elongated foreclaws of *T. scripta*. Females have broader heads, and a short tail with the vent positioned beneath the posterior marginals.

• **DESCRIPTIONS.** Adults were described by Bonin et al. (1996), Boulenger (1889), Ernst (1990), Ernst and Barbour (1989), Medem (1975), G. Müller (1987), L. Müller (1940), Obst 1985, Pritchard (1967, 1979), Pritchard and Trebbau (1984), Siebenrock (1907, 1909), Vanzolini (1995), and Williams (1956). Medem (1975) described the **hatchlings**, and the **egg and nest** were described by Medem (1975) and Moll and Legler (1971).

• **ILLUSTRATIONS.** Color illustrations of adults, hatchlings, eggs, or habitat are in Freiberg (1981), Obst (1985), Pritchard (1967, 1979), Pritchard and Trebbau (1984), and Rogner (1995). Black and white illustrations are as follows: adults (Medem 1975, Mertens 1952, Müller 1940, Obst 1986, Wermuth and Mertens 1961), shell (Dunn 1945; Ernst 1990; Freiberg 1981; Fritz 1990b, 1998; Gray 1856; Pritchard and Trebbau 1984; Wermuth and Mertens 1961), skull (Pritchard and Trebbau 1984), head and neck pattern (Borg 1980, Ernst 1990, Mertens 1952, Nietzke 1973, Obst 1985), hatchlings or juveniles (Borg 1980, Ernst 1990, Medem 1975, L. Müller 1940, Nietzke 1973, Williams 1956), eggs (Fritz 1990a, Medem 1975), courtship and copulatory behavior (Borg 1980; Fritz 1990a,b, 1998), and nesting behavior (Medem 1975).

• **DISTRIBUTION.** The species is found in northern Colombia and northwestern Venezuela. *Trachemys callirostris callirostris* occurs in the western portion of the range in Caribbean drainages of Colombia and northwestern Venezuela; *T. c. chichiriviche* inhabits the small coastal watersheds between the Río Tocuyo and Río Moron in northern Venezuela.

Distribution was discussed by Medem (1957, 1968), L. Müller (1940), and Pritchard and Trebbau (1984). Maps documenting the species' distribution are in Iverson (1986, 1992), Legler (1990), Methner (1989), Moll and Legler 1971, Pritchard and Trebbau (1984), and Williams (1956).

• **FOSSIL RECORD.** None.

• **PERTINENT LITERATURE.** General accounts are in Dathe (1986), Dunn (1945), Ernst and Barbour (1989), Freiberg (1981), Groombridge (1982), Jahn (1985), Jocher (1974), Losansky (1980), Mertens (1952), Methner (1989), Nietzke (1973), Nöllert (1992), and Pritchard and Trebbau (1984). Other selected references are arranged by topic: **systematics and taxonomy** (David 1994; Ernst 1990; Günther 1885; Holman 1977; Legler 1990; Moll and Legler 1971; Obst 1985; Seidel 2002a; Seidel and Adkins 1987; Siebenrock 1907; Vanzolini 1995; Weaver and Rose 1967; Webb 1995; Wermuth and Mertens 1961, 1977;

Williams 1956), **zoogeography** (Legler 1990), **sexual dimorphism** (Gibbons and Lovich 1990), **hemoglobin** (Seidel 2002b), **reproduction** (Borg 1980; Connaughton and Paine 1989; Fritz 1990a,b, 1991, 1998; Kamprath 1989; Medem 1975; Moll and Moll 1990; Velasquez 1999a,b,c), **hybridization** (Kamprath 1989), **growth** (Medem 1975), **reduced weight gain after electric shock** (Edwards and Mrosovsky 1964), **feeding behavior** (Helzig 1982, Tafur and Tapias 1993), **predation** (Medem 1975), **phototactic behavior** (Mrosovsky and Boycott 1966), **habitat** (Medem 1957, Rivero-Blanco and Dixon 1979), **conservation status** (Anonymous 1990, Groombridge 1982, Velasquez 1999c), **husbandry** (Helm and Giebner 1998; Losansky 1976; Velasquez 1999a,b), **disease** (Losansky 1976), and **common name** (Medem 1957, Iverson 1985, Mittermeier et al. 1980).

• **ETYMOLOGY.** The name *callirostris* stems from the Greek word *kallion*, meaning beautiful, and the Latin word *rostrum*, or snout. The name *chichiriviche* refers to the hill in the state of Edo. Falcón, Venezuela where the first recorded specimen was found.

1. *Trachemys callirostris callirostris* (Gray) Colombian Slider

Emys callirostris Gray 1856:25. See species synonymy.

Emys callorostris: Gray 1856: Fig. 12B. See species synonymy.

Callichelys callirostris: Gray 1863:181.

Pseudemys callirostris: Cope 1887:22.

Chrysemys ornata [var.] *callirostris*: Boulenger 1889:82.

Chrysemys ornata callirostris: Siebenrock 1907:790.

Pseudemys scripta callirostris: Williams 1956:159.

Pseudemys ornata callirostris: Wermuth and Mertens 1961:148.

Chrysemys callirostris: Weaver and Rose 1967:63.

Chrysemys scripta callirostris: Weaver and Rose 1967:63.

Trachemys scripta callirostris: Iverson 1985:4.

Trachemys ascia callirostris: Tafur and Tapias 1993:208. See species synonymy.

Trachemys dorbigni callirostris: Helm and Giebner 1998:21.

Trachemys callirostris callirostris: Seidel, 2002a:289. First use of present combination.

• **DEFINITION.** Several large ocelli are present on the underside of the snout and on the upper and lower jaws; the broad, reddish supratemporal stripe has parallel sides, and is well-separated from the orbit; the carapace is patterned with light ocelli; and most of the plastron is covered with an extensive pattern of dark lines.

2. *Trachemys callirostris chichiriviche* (Pritchard and Trebbau) Venezuelan Slider

Pseudemys scripta chichiriviche Pritchard and Trebbau 1984: 191. Type locality, "Lago de Tacarigua, Edo. Falcón, Venezuela (68°15'W, 11°4'N) ... located in the Río Tocuyo, Dto. Acosta, Edo. Falcón." Holotype, Florida State Museum (FMNH) 53333, alcoholic adult female, collected by Uta Schmidt, 7 August 1978 (examined by the author).

Trachemys scripta chichiriviche: Iverson 1985:4.

Trachemys callirostris chichiriviche: Seidel 2002a:289. First use of present combination.

• **DEFINITION.** Several light ocelli are present on the chin; the brownish-red, wedge-shaped supratemporal stripe is well-separated from the orbit; the pleural scutes of the carapace are marked with oval or irregularly shaped black marks; and the plastron has a narrow, dark pattern along its midseam.

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