

Red-Bellied Side-Necked Turtle

Red-Bellied Side-Necked Turtle species profile.

The red-bellied side-necked turtle (*Emydura subglobosa* [albertsii]) ranges widely through New Guinea and has been found on the south side of the strait of Australia's Cape York Peninsula. Many hobbyists keep and breed this species whose adults grow to some 10 inches.

The red-bellied side-necked turtle readily accepts fish, worms and tadpoles. Although very aquatic, *E. subglobosa* will bask if given the opportunity.

Adequate space is important for the red-bellied side-necked turtles. One or two small, semiaquatic turtles could properly live in at least a 40 gallon breeder size tank, but more space is always preferable. Cleanliness is essential for the health of the turtles. Enclosures should be cleaned frequently. Some species may be kept outside (year-round or during the summer, depending upon the climate). For haulout areas, a few limb sections wedged into place and protruding well above the water in the center of the tank are ideal in most cases.

Warmth--especially in the form of a basking area--is very important for red-bellied side-necked turtles. Most turtles enjoy basking temperatures ranging from 84 to 94 degrees Fahrenheit. Water temperatures between 72 and 80 degrees Fahrenheit are fine. Vitamin D and calcium supplements, used in conjunction with full-spectrum lighting, will give turtles a better chance at good health.