

Common Map Turtle

Common Map Turtle (*Graptemys geographica*) - Pl.5

Identification: Adult females 7" - 10 3/4"; males 3 1/2" - 6 1/4". The low, keeled carapace of the Common Map Turtle is olive to brown, marked with thin yellow lines. If the pattern on the carapace is well defined, it looks like a map of scattered round islands surrounded by narrow waterways. The hingeless plastron is whitish to yellow. The head and neck have yellow stripes on olive or brown skin. A key identifying characteristic is a roughly triangular yellow spot behind the eye. The female has a significantly larger head than the male.

Where to find them: The Common Map Turtle is found in the Delaware River and adjacent canals. It likes to bask out in the open, but is very wary and quickly enters the water when approached.

When to find them: Active April through October.

Range: Delaware River from Delaware Water Gap south to Trenton, and in the Raritan River Watershed.

Common Map Turtle

(*Graptemys geographica*) - text pg. 14

Key Features

- Head and neck have yellow stripes on olive skin.
- Triangular spot behind each eye.
- Carapace: low, keeled; olive to brown with thin yellow lines.
- Plastron: hingeless; white to yellow.



New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife ~ 2003



Excerpt from: Schwartz, V. & D. Golden, "Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians of New Jersey". New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife 2002.

Order the complete guide at - <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/products.htm>