



# First Record of an Indian Roofed Turtle, *Pangshura tecta* (Gray 1830), from Delhi, India

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Indian Roofed Turtles (*Pangshura tecta*) are fully aquatic and inhabit freshwater with plenty of aquatic vegetation, on which these herbivorous turtles feed (Baruah et al. 2016). It is a less active species and comparatively a poor swimmer. Little is known about this relatively weak swimmer's breeding habits other than clutches typically consist of 4–10 eggs (Baruah et al. 2016). The species is widely distributed in northern India, but has not been reported from Delhi (Husain 1997).

In September 2018, we encountered a turtle with characters of *P. tecta* (Fig. 1) in Serpentine Lake of the Kamla Nehru Ridge, Delhi (28°40'50"N, 77°13'01"E). Vegetation on the Kamla Nehru Ridge is a combination of dry thorny scrub dominated by species of *Acacia* and moist deciduous forest (Barhadiya 2016). We recorded morphological characters as follows: plastron length = 8.2cm; head moderately small and pointed; carapace elevated and oval with a distinct red vertebral keel that was spiked on vertebral III; neck with distinct yellow stripes, reddish crescent-shaped markings behind the eyes; fore- and hindlimbs spotted; digits webbed. Based on descriptions in Smith (1933), Hossain et al. (2013), and Baruah et al. (2016), we confirmed the identity of the turtle as *P. tecta*. This is the first record of the species from Delhi.

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**Fig. 1.** Indian Roofed Turtle (*Pangshura tecta*) found in Serpentine Lake, Kamla Nehru Ridge, Delhi, India. Photographs by Gaurav Barhadiya.