



INTRODUCED SPECIES

# First Report of a Non-native Western Painted Turtle, *Chrysemys picta bellii* (Gray 1831), in Miami, Florida, in 50 Years

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Southern Florida is home to many nonnative species of turtles (Krysko et al. 2016). Of the few reports of Western Painted Turtles (*Chrysemys picta bellii*) in Florida, the first dates to 1933 in Jackson County (Carr 1940; Krysko et al. 2011). In addition, 25 sick Western Painted Turtles were released in Miami-Dade County in 1964 (King and Krakauer 1966). The Western Painted Turtle is native to much of North America, from southern Canada to Missouri, eastern Colorado, Wyoming, Idaho, northern Oklahoma, and northern Oregon (Ernst and Lovich 2009), but not Florida.

On 30 April 2021, we caught a Western Painted Turtle (*Chrysemys picta bellii*) in a sardine-baited 3-ft-diameter hoop trap in a medium-sized pond (-0.6 ha) in a Miami park (25.734531°N, -80.310247°W; WGS 84). The male was 12.1 cm in carapace length, 8.7 cm in carapace width, and weighed 0.2 kg (Fig. 1). A photographic voucher was submitted to the Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida (UF-192121) and the specimen was removed from the pond. The species was identified by Hunter Howell, University of Miami, and by Michael Llorett, University of



Fig. 1. An adult male Western Painted Turtle (*Chrysemys picta bellii*) collected in Miami, Florida, USA. Photographs by Leyna Stemle.

Florida. To my knowledge, this is the first accurately georeferenced *C. p. bellii* to have been documented in Miami, Florida (Krysko et al. 2010; Krysko et al. 2016). Introductions of non-native turtle species in Miami are ongoing, most through the live animal trade (Stemle 2020; Stemle and Levine 2020), but the source of this individual remains unknown.

### Acknowledgements

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