



Chinese Striped-necked Turtles, *Mauremys sinensis* (Gray 1834), in Galicia, Northwestern Spain

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The Chinese Striped-necked Turtle (*Mauremys sinensis*) is an aquatic Asian geomydid (Van Dijk et al. 2014) that has been widely introduced via the pet trade (Pupins and Pupina 2011; Jablonski et al. 2018; Kalaentzis et al. 2023), with reproduction documented in Italy (Di Blasio et al. 2021) and Spain (Martínez-Silvestre et al. 2019). In the Iberian Peninsula, the species has been introduced in both Spain (Campos-Such et al. 2016; Gonzalez de la Vega et al. 2021) and Portugal (Rato et al. 2024).

On 18 May 2024, we found an immature male *M. sinensis* basking on the bank of the Lagares River in Vigo, Pontevedra Province, Spain (42.20180, -8.76496; Fig. 1). On 6 June 2024, we observed a large female basking on a

log in Setados Pond, As Neves, Pontevedra Province, Spain (42.08132, -8.39648; Fig. 2). This pond supports a healthy population of Iberian Striped-necked Turtles (*Mauremys leprosa*). Photographic vouchers have been submitted to the Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida (UF 195205–6), and the identity of the species was confirmed by Enrique Ayllón of the Spanish Herpetological Association (AHE).

A substantial threat to the conservation of native *M. leprosa* is the risk of hybridization with *M. sinensis* (Sancho et al. 2020). Further research is necessary for early detection of this alien species in order to avoid conservation problems for autochthonous turtles.



Figure 1. An immature male Chinese Striped-necked Turtle (*Mauremys sinensis*) basking on the bank of the Lagares River in Vigo, Pontevedra Province, Spain. Photograph by César Ayres.



Figure 2. Female Chinese Striped-necked Turtle (*Mauremys sinensis*) basking on a log in As Neves, Pontevedra Province, Spain. Photograph by César Ayres.

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