

Spot Bellied Side Necked Turtle

Scientific Name: *Phrynops hilarii*

Class: Reptilia

Order: Testudines

Family: Chelidae



The Spot-Bellied Side-Necked Turtle is the largest member of the *Phrynops* genus, growing up to 18 inches in length. The carapace is olive-brown with yellow margins, and is parallel sided with a flattened top. The plastron is yellow with symmetrically-placed round black spots. The distinctive feature is a narrow black line running along each side of the neck through the eyes and snout. Above this line the color is gray, and below it is white. Also, two barbells ringed at the base project downward from the underside of the head.

Range

The range of the Spot-Bellied Side-Necked Turtle is Southern Brazil, Uruguay, Northern Argentina, and Paraguay.

Habitat

The Spot-Bellied Side-Necked Turtle inhabits freshwater streams, rivers and lakes of the Rio Parana and adjacent basins.

Gestation

The incubation period is approximately 150 days.

Litter

They lay from 9 to 14 eggs with the maximum of 32 eggs.

Behavior

These turtles inhabit streams, lakes, and swamps with abundant aquatic vegetation and soft bottoms.

Reproduction

Females lay twice a year, once between February and May and the other between September and December.

Wild Diet

This omnivorous species feeds on small fish and insects, but also will eat birds, reptiles, small animals and dead animals.