

Lissemys spp. - Flapshell Turtles

Flapshell Turtles

Other Names:

Distribution: Bangladesh; India; Myanmar; Nepal; Pakistan; Sri Lanka

Physical Characteristics: Length: up to 37cm

International Conservation Status:
CITES Appendix II

IUCN: LR - DD

National Protection in Singapore:

Endangered Species (Import and Export) Act, 2006



Lissemys scutata (Burmese Flapshell Turtle)

Credit: Peter Paul van Dijk

Distinguishing Features:

- Domed carapace (top shell)
- Hinge on the plastron (bottom shell) which closes the shell to protect the head and front limbs
- Pair of flaps covers the hind limbs when retracted

Carapace (Top shell)



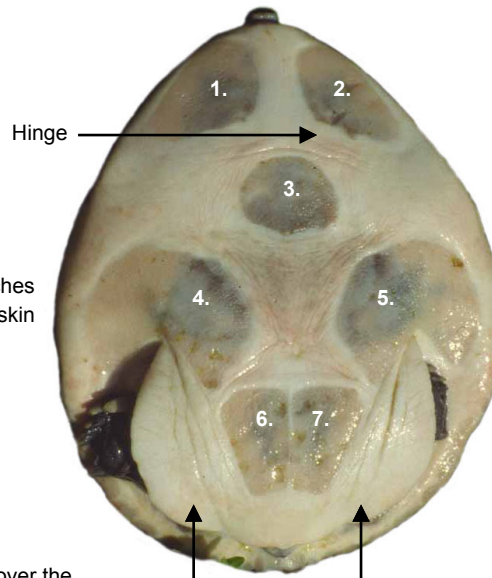
Lissemys scutata (Burmese Flapshell Turtle)
Credit: Indraneil Das



Credit: Indraneil Das

Lissemys punctata (Indian Flapshell Turtle)
showing hinge partially closed

Plastron (Bottom shell)



Seven patches
of hard skin

Flaps which cover the
hind limbs when closed

Lissemys scutata (Burmese Flapshell Turtle)
Credit: Peter Paul van Dijk

Traded as: Food and live as pets, plastron used in traditional medicine.

Similar to: Other softshell turtles.

- No hinge
- No flaps to cover hind legs when retracted.



Amyda cartilaginea
(Asian Softshell Turtle)
Credit: Mark Auliya/TRAFFIC SEA



Pelochelys cantorii
(Frog-faced Softshell Turtle)
Credit: Mark Auliya/TRAFFIC SEA