

# A NOTE ON THE OCCURRENCE OF THE ROOFED TURTLE, *KACHUGA TECTA* IN SALINE WATER IN SOUTHERN BANGLADESH

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The Roofed Turtle, *Kachuga tecta* is known to inhabit fresh water bodies like ponds, lakes, canals and rivers where the water is stagnant and slow running. Slow moving or quiet vegetation-choked waters appear optimal (Moll 1987). However, it has also been observed in the weedy backwater of a river and in a slow moving canal crammed with aquatic vegetation which flowed into an ox bow lake (Moll 1987). Khan (1982) reported *K. tecta* occupying flowing and stagnant fresh waters in Bangladesh. During one of my field trips to Char Alexandar, Ramgoti in Greater Noakhali District from August 1-4, 1989 for the herpetofaunal survey, I observed some *K. tecta* in creeks and canals which were being daily flooded by sea water (from the Bay of Bengal) periodically, during high tides.

As far as literature is concerned on the habitat of this species, there is no mention of it inhabiting brackish or saline water. Studies on the chelonian fauna of Bangladesh are few excepting some preliminary information by Shafi & Quddus (1977), Khan (1982, 1987), Husain (1979) and Hossen (1989). Some of the publications in India on the chelonians also did not mention *K. tecta* occupying brackish or saline water. Worth mentioning are Smith (1931), Daniel (1983), Das (1985). Pritchard (1979) and Ernst & Barbour (1989) also did not mention this habitat for *K. tecta*. However, Das (personal Communication, 1989) has also observed *K. tecta* in saline water in India. This is the first record of *K. tecta* inhabiting saline or brackish water in Bangladesh.

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