

Does the invasive species *Trachemys scripta* and *Pseudemys concinna* able to reproduce in the northern coast of Portugal?

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In the last decades, misinformed owners released countless specimens of *Trachemys scripta elegans* turtles, commonly known as Red-eared sliders, in wetlands worldwide. Established in several countries, these reptiles became a threat to the biodiversity of freshwater ecosystems, particularly for native turtles.

With this study we intend to evaluate the reproduction ability in the north of Portugal of both this species and another freshwater species from the USA - *Pseudemys concinna* - now also quite popular as a pet, and that we believe can soon become a problem species.

To study this, we isolated 3 females and 2 males of each species on reproducing cells, from March 2011 to April 2012, under conditions as close as possible to the natural environment, at Gaia Biological Park, which is located in Vila Nova de Gaia, Portugal.

From these reproductive stock, eighteen *Trachemys scripta elegans* hatched, but apparently all were males.

No births of *Pseudemys concinna* were recorded, however we collected evidence of births on a owner backyard, 50 km from the study area, that reinforce the suspicion that this species may come to reproduce in our country, so it's important to carry out further studies on this subject.

Based on the results obtained, some measures on these animals trade law are suggested. These might, in our opinion, halt and prevent an environmental problem that lies ahead, preventing and avoiding the high costs involved in its resolution.