

Cuc Phuong Turtle Conservation Center Ecology Report

Asian Turtle Conservation Network

Observation of *Heosemys grandis* mating on land

Date: 10th June 2003

The following observations were made on June 10, 2003 in enclosure No. T39 of the Turtle Conservation Center (TCC) at Cuc Phuong National Park.

During morning feeding at 09:15 hours on 10th June 2003 *Heosemys grandis* male No. 41 was observed attempting to mate with an adult female No. 43 on land in one of the terrestrial enclosures. The male was fully mounted with his fore and hind claws hooked beneath the margins of the female's carapace. His tail was extended downward toward the females cloacae, while he bit repeatedly at her head.

This activity was recorded based upon the fact that all previous observations relating to mounting and breeding activity have been observed in water, this being the first occurrence observed on land. Copulation was not observed.



Heosemys grandis male No. 41 mounting female No. 43 in enclosure T39

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