



Chelonian Illustrations #18

African Hinge-Back Tortoises

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The eighteenth in a series of illustrations of chelonians covers the testudinid genus *Kinixys*. Data include common and scientific names, distribution maps, and original watercolor paintings. The aim is to provide a visual summary to raise awareness for turtle conservation, organize taxonomic and zoogeographic knowledge, and act as a template for amateur interest.

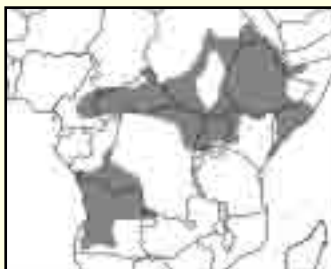
Special thanks to Donald G. Broadley, who has been instrumental in the completion of almost all distribution maps. Further zoogeography was based on IVERSON, 1992*, and on the authors' personal knowledge regarding the genus covered herein.

*IVERSON, J. B. 1992. *A revised checklist with distribution maps of the turtles of the world*. Privately published, Richmond, IN (USA).

Family	Genus	Species	Distribution
Testudinidae	<i>Kinixys</i>	<i>K. belliana belliana</i> Gray, 1831 <i>K. belliana domerguei</i> (Vuillemin, 1972) <i>K. belliana zombensis</i> Hewitt, 1931 <i>K. erosa</i> (Schweigger, 1812) <i>K. homeana</i> Bell, 1827 <i>K. lobatsiana</i> (Power, 1927) <i>K. natalensis</i> Hewitt, 1935 <i>K. nogueyi</i> (Lataste, 1886) <i>K. spekii</i> Gray, 1863	

BELL'S HINGE-BACK TORTOISE

Kinixys belliana belliana



Found in semi-arid to moist savannas from low (sea level) to high elevations: west as far as central Cameroon, and coastal Cabinda, Zaire, and Angola; north to extreme northern Central African Republic, the vicinity of Eilai (northwest of



Khartoum), north-central Sudan, and Eritrea, extreme northern Ethiopia; east into northwestern and southern Somalia, and northeastern Angola; south along the southern coast of Somalia into coastal Kenya, and through Uganda to northeastern Rwanda, and to southwestern Angola. Although presently isolated, the Angolan population was probably formerly connected to the Central African Republic population (pers comm. Donald Broadley). (Roger Bour helped with this map.)

DOMERGUE'S HINGE-BACK TORTOISE

Kinixys belliana domerguei



Found in arid and moist savanna bush and grasslands at low to middle elevations: limited to a 100-square-kilometer range in the vicinity of Nosy Faly Island

and peninsula, Ambanja and Ambazoana, the Sambirano region, extreme northwestern Madagascar. Suspected to be introduced. (Roger Bour and Olaf Pronk helped with this drawing and map.)



SOUTHEASTERN HINGE-BACK TORTOISE

Kinixys belliana zombensis



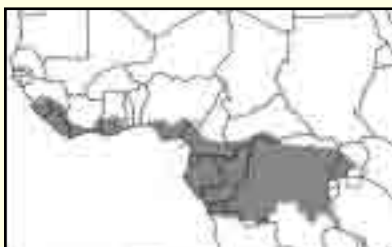
Found in moist savannas and coastal tropical forests along the coastal plain at low to middle elevations: as far west as the eastern boundaries of the Central Plateau from eastern Zimbabwe to central Tanzania; north to coastal southeastern Kenya and the lower Tana River basin; east to the coasts

of Tanzania and Mozambique; south as far as the vicinities of Eshowe and Richards Bay, northeastern Natal, South Africa.



SERRATED HINGE-BACK TORTOISE

Kinixys erosa



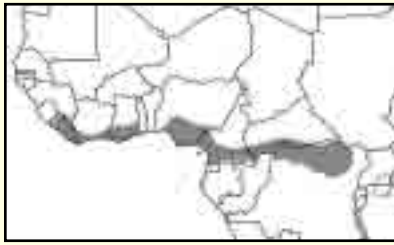
Found in swampy areas of evergreen forests from low to middle elevations: west as far as western Liberia, and to the coasts of Cameroon,

Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Congo, Cabinda, and Zaire; north to the northern limits of the tropical evergreen rainforests from Sierra Leone to northeastern Zaire; east to central Uganda, and eastern Zaire bordering Rwanda, Burundi and northern Lake Tanganyika; south to the West African coast from Sierra Leone to Cameroon (excluding the "Benin gap," where the savanna reaches the coast), the Zaire/northern-Angola border, and the upper Lualaba River basin in the vicinity of Ankora, southeastern Zaire. (Richard Ogust helped with this drawing.)



HOME'S HINGE-BACK TORTOISE

Kinixys homeana



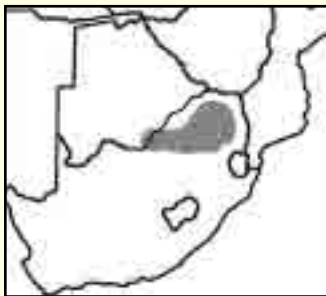
Found in moist evergreen forests and wooded areas close to rivers at low to middle elevations: west as far as western



Liberia; north to the northern limits of the tropical evergreen forests from Liberia to northeastern Zaire; east to the vicinity of Niangara in the Uele region of northeastern Zaire; south to the West African coast from Liberia to Cameroon (excluding the "Benin gap," where the savanna reaches the coast), northwestern Equatorial Guinea, southern Cameroon, southwestern Central African Republic, and the northern bank of the lower Zaire River as far as the Equator in northern Zaire. (Roger Bour helped with this map, and Richard Ogust helped with this drawing.)

LOBATSE HINGE-BACK TORTOISE

Kinixys lobatsiana



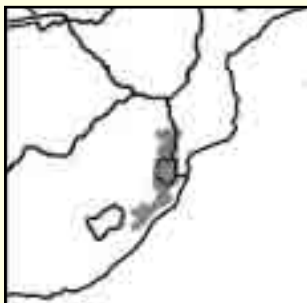
Found in arid savanna woodland, bush, and grasslands at low to middle elevations, as well as rocky outcrops and ridges at higher elevations: west as far as the vicinities of Kanye,



Lobatse, and Gaborone, southeastern Botswana; north to the vicinity of Louis Trichardt, northeastern South Africa; east to the Drakensberg Mountains of eastern Transvaal, northeastern South Africa north of Swaziland; south to the vicinity of Groblersdal and the Magaliesberg Mountains in northeastern South Africa.

NATAL HINGE-BACK TORTOISE

Kinixys natalensis



Found in arid bush and grasslands, often among rocks, at low to middle elevations: west as far as the eastern slopes of the Drakensberg Mountains of Natal and Transvaal, eastern South Africa and western Swaziland; north to the southern boundaries of the Olifants River



basin, northeastern South Africa and southwestern Mozambique; east to the eastern slopes of the Lebombo Mountains on the Mozambique borders with Swaziland and Transvaal, South Africa (not reaching the coastal plain); south through western Zululand to the vicinities of Colenso and Pietermaritzburg, Natal, South Africa.

WESTERN HINGE-BACK TORTOISE

Kinixys nogueyi



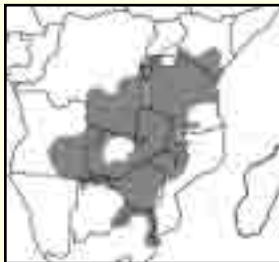
Found in moist savanna woodland, thicket, and grasslands from low to high elevations: west as far as the West African coast from mid-coastal Senegal to coastal Guinea;



north to the northern limits of the tropical savanna of West Africa from Senegal to western Central African Republic; east at least to the vicinity of Sibut, central Central African Republic; south to the West African coast from extreme southeastern Ivory Coast to southwestern Nigeria (where not limited by tropical rainforest), and across southern Nigeria, Cameroon, and southwestern Central African Republic. We herewith elevate *Kinixys belliana nogueyi* (Lataste 1886:286) to *Kinixys nogueyi* (full species status) designating the syntype BMNH 1946.1.22.46 as lectotype, with "Medine (Haut-Senegal)" as the type locality, based in part on the presence of four claws on the forelimbs (as opposed to five claws for *K. belliana*) and the fact that *K. nogueyi* and *K. belliana* are sympatric in both western Central African Republic and eastern Cameroon. (Roger Bour helped with this drawing.)

SPEKE'S HINGE-BACK TORTOISE

Kinixys spekii



Found primarily in moist savanna woodland and grasslands on the Central Plateau, sometimes in drier deciduous woodlands, at low to middle elevations: west as far as the upper Cubango River basin of central Angola; north to the southern reaches of the tropical rain-



forests of southern Zaire, Akagera, northeastern Rwanda, and the vicinities of Kapiti Plains, near Nairobi, southern Kerio Valley, and the southern limits of the upper Tana River basin, Kenya; east to the southern coastline of Kenya, the northern coastline of Tanzania, and the eastern shores of Lake Malawi; south through the Lebombo Mountains along the borders of Mozambique with South Africa and Swaziland, and to the vicinity of Mochudi in the upper Limpopo River basin, southeastern Botswana.

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