

# COOTER

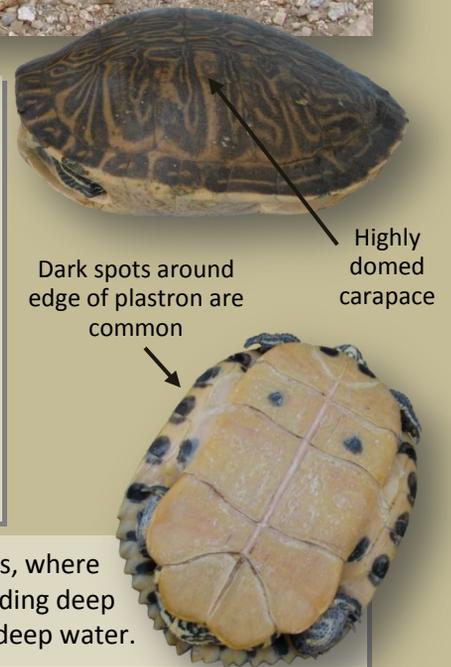
(*Pseudemys* sp.)

NONNATIVE



**Description:** *Pseudemys* is a Genus of large turtles (up to 16 inches long) with a brown to nearly black carapace with vertical red or yellow streaks. The carapace is highly domed with the greatest peak near the front.

Although variable, the plastron is often reddish. The head, neck, and legs have thin yellow stripes. The top of the head has a prominent streak that joins with the stripes above the eyes at the snout to form an arrow that is characteristic of several species. The tip of the upper jaw has a prominent notch with tooth-like cusps on each side.



Cooters have yellow stripes on the head, neck, and legs

**Habitat:** Aquatic; native to the eastern United States, where it inhabits still or slow-moving bodies of water, including deep ponds, lakes, streams, and large rivers. Basks near deep water.

**Behavior:** Omnivorous; eats aquatic plants as adults but will eat plant and animal matter when young.

**If you find one:** If you find a cooter away from a source of water, where its welfare is questionable or threatened, please contact the [nearest Game and Fish office](#) or the Phoenix Herpetological Society for information and recommendations.

