

LEOPARD TORTOISE

(*Geochelone pardalis*)

NONNATIVE

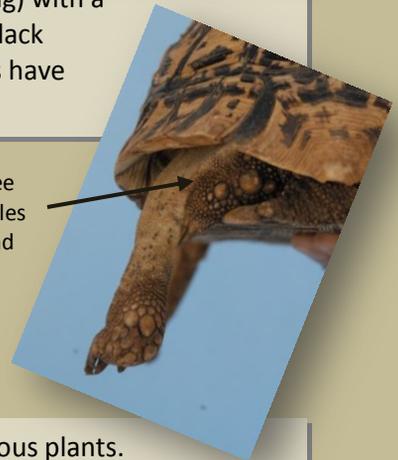


Description: Large mainland tortoise (up to 20 inches long) with a high-domed, yellow carapace and a pattern of irregular black stripes and blotches unique to each individual. Front legs have irregularly shaped overlapping scales.

Habitat: Completely terrestrial; native to savannahs from northeast Africa to the Cape of Good Hope. Inhabits semi-arid grassland habitats where their shell coloration camouflages them from predators.

Behavior: Herbivorous; eats grasses, cactus and herbaceous plants. Uses abandoned holes as burrows but digs to lay eggs. Does not hibernate during winter.

If you find one: If you find a leopard tortoise, it is a captive turtle that has either escaped or has been unlawfully released. For the benefit of the animal, please contact the [nearest Game and Fish office](#) or the Phoenix Herpetological Society for information and recommendations.



Two or three enlarged scales on each hind leg