

# THREE-TOED BOX TURTLE

(*Terrapene carolina triunguis*)

NONNATIVE

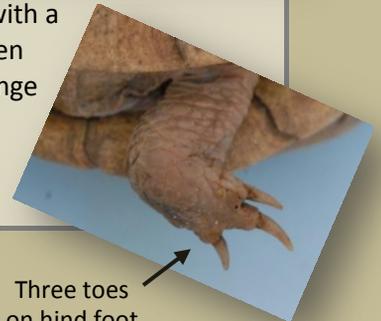


**Description:** Small to medium (up to 8 inches long) turtle with a tan or olive colored, highly-domed, elongated carapace, often with an obscure pattern. The head and front feet have orange or yellow spots, but males often have red on the head. Females have yellow-brown eyes and a flat plastron. Hind foot usually only has three toes.

**Habitat:** Terrestrial/semi-aquatic; native to the eastern and midwestern United States and Mexico, can be found in woodlands, pastures, marshy meadows, and brushy grasslands.

**Behavior:** Omnivorous; eats insects, worms, crayfish, frogs, and many kinds of vegetation. They become more herbivorous with age. Activity is more common in the morning or after a rain. A box turtle regulates its body temperature by using burrows, ponds, or the shade of vegetation. Box turtles hibernate in burrows or under debris in winter.

**If you find one:** If you find a three-toed box turtle, 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.



Three toes on hind foot