

# RADIATED TORTOISE



## Description

Radiated Tortoises are the largest of the 'star' tortoises, so called because of the star pattern on their back. The shell, or 'carapace', is black with yellow or orange stars. Males have longer tails than females. This tortoise has yellow legs, feet and head except for a black patch on top of its head.

## Diet

They are **herbivores**, feeding on grasses, fruit and succulent plants.

## In the wild

After mating, females lay their eggs in a pre-excavated hole and then leave them alone. Juveniles are 3.2–4 cm upon hatching and are a white to an off-white shade. The juvenile's carapace hardens and colours soon after hatching.

## Threats

Radiated Tortoises are affected by loss of habitat and are used as a food source for ceremonial events. Their shells are also used as ornaments.

## At Perth Zoo

Perth Zoo's Radiated Tortoises are on display in the **African Savannah**.

**Scientific Name**  
*Astrochelys radiata*

## Conservation Status

Extinct

Extinct in the Wild

**Critically Endangered**

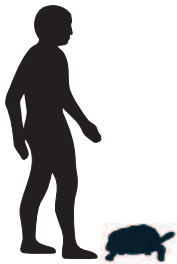
Endangered

Vulnerable

Near-Threatened

Least Concern

Data Deficient



**Body Length:** 30–40 cm

**Weight:** Up to 16 kg

**Incubation:** 4.5–5.5 months

**Number of eggs:** 3–12



Distribution ■

**Distribution:** Southern Madagascar

**Habitat:** Dry regions of brush, thorn bushes and woodlands

