

Radiated tortoise

Housha-Game

Scientific name

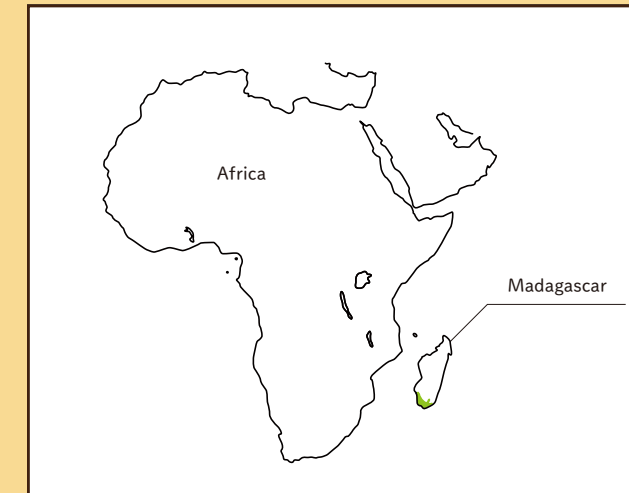
Geochelone radiata

Classification

Testudines, Testudinidae

Distribution

Arid area in the southern part of Madagascar



Feeding Habits

In the wild, it mainly eats succulents, fallen fruits, mushrooms, etc. At the zoo, we feed vegetables and fruits such as Japanese mustard spinach, cabbage, tomatoes and oranges, as well as wild grasses such as mulberry leaves and plantain.

Characteristics

Radiated Tortoise's English common name comes from that it has a beautiful radial pattern on it. Japanese common name, "Housha-game" is direct translation from the English.

Behavior and ecology

It is the endemic species to inhabit only Madagascar. It is considered that this pattern is "Crypsis" to avoid observation or detection by other animals and to help protect themselves in the wild. However, it is popular as pets due to the beautiful pattern, so the population is decreasing by the overhunting in the wild habitats, and listed as critically endangered in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. At the present, it is internationally protected, but poaching and smuggling are still never ending.