CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Razor-backed Musk Turtle

Sternotherus carinatus

The Razor-backed Musk Turtle is a small, aquatic turtle native to the southern United States, easily recognized by the sharp, distinct ridge running down the center of its domed shell. Its shell is t…

Quick facts

Classification: Reptile
Family: Kinosternidae
Habitat: Freshwater rivers, streams, swamps, and ponds with abundant vegetation
Diet: Omnivore
Conservation status: Least Concern
Lifespan: 20-40 years
Weight: 120-200 grams
Scientific name: Sternotherus carinatus

Did you know?

- Unlike many turtles, the Razor-backed Musk Turtle is an excellent climber and has been observed scaling submerged logs and even tank walls in captivi…
- The Razor-backed Musk Turtle is often called the 'stinkpot' because of the strong musky odor it releases for defense. It has a highly keeled shell th…

What I learned

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