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## Revised catalogue of the herpetological collection in Turin University II. Chelonia and Crocodylia

### ABSTRACT

The revised catalogue of chelonians and crocodiles belonging to the historical material of Turin University and housed in the Museo Regionale di Scienze Naturali di Torino is provided. The material, totally including 59 species of tortoises and turtles and 13 species of loricates, is particularly important since specimens were mainly obtained during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and the first decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Most of these animals were personally imported alive and bought by the Count Mario Giacinto Peracca, who kept them in his glasshouses and estate, and were donated to the Museum after their death. Other remarkable individuals were captured during expeditions sponsored by the Museum, such as those by its collaborator Enrico Festa and by Alfredo Borelli, and the remarkable circumnavigation expedition of the "Regia Pirocorvetta Magenta". Great part of the specimens is stuffed, while smaller specimens are preserved in ethanol. Finally, of particular importance we quote the anatomical material derived from the specimens before being prepared, and consisting of skeletal pieces - including crania - or of internal organs.

Key words: Herpetology, Collection, Catalogue, Chelonia, Crocodylia.

### INTRODUCTION

Since several years the herpetological collection of Turin University is object of a increasing interest, due to the great number of preserved material, and to the fact that many of the preserved specimens are referable to the activity and study some of the most eminent zoologists of the

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19<sup>th</sup> Century, such as Michele Lessona, Lorenzo Camerano, and Mario Giacinto Peracca. In particular, as already stated by Gavetti & Andreone (1993) and Andreone & Gavetti (1999), most of Peracca's and Camerano's types are still preserved in Turin, and for this the collection has a very high taxonomic and systematic value.

Our curatorial work allowed in the last year to rediscover most of the specimens formerly believed as lost, and also to a reversionary work that produced, among the other things, a first contribution on the amphibians (Gavetti & Andreone, 1993). The reptile collection has not yet been published, excepting for the acritical catalogues by Tortonese (1942) and Elter (1982). So far, we here provide the first part, dealing with chelonians and crocodiles. The other parts will follow in the future, likely one part for lizards, and one part for snakes, with the project to re-edit, at the end of the process, the whole reptile book.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

The structure of the catalogue largely follows that provided by Gavetti & Andreone (1993). A first line reports the acronym (MZUT = Museum of Zoology, University of Turin; MACUT, Museum of Comparative Anatomy, University of Turin), the reference number, the geographic information, from the state, provinces, municipalities, and toponyms, the number of preserved specimens. In the case we found on the label simple information on the provenance country (e.g., "Italy", "Madagascar", "Ecuador") we reported it on the first line. In the case of total absence of written geographic data on the accompanying label (or on the old catalogues) we reported the acronym w.d. = without data.

A second line reports – when available – the collector(s), the donor(s), and the reference date. In the case of absence of this kind of information we left empty the row. The number of specimens is reported at the right. The ethanol-preserved specimens are marked by an "e" if adults, and by "j" if juveniles or sub-adults. The stuffed and dry specimens are indicated as followed by a "d" (dry, stuffed specimen). Skeletal samples are marked by "sk" (skeletal specimen), the single crania by "c" (cranium), and the liquid-preserved anatomical parts (e.g., organs) as "ap" (anatomical part). Footnotes - when present - provide information on the referred material, from museum and historical data to taxonomic and nomenclature notes. We also spent a particular attention to give key biographic information on the major collectors and donors of that age.

The nomenclature of the existing chelonians and crocodiles follows Ernst & Barbour (1989), King & Burke (1989), Fritz & Havas (2006) and Uetz (2006). In general we did not report the subspecific attribution. In some cases it was not possible to attribute with certainty a specimen to a determined species: for this reason the species was given as "cf."

## SYSTEMATIC CATALOGUE

Subclass **ANAPSIDA** Williston, 1925Order **TESTUDINES** Linnaeus, 1758Suborder **CRYPTODIRA** Cope, 1869Superfamily **CHELONIOIDEA** Cope, 1882Family **CHELONIIDAE** Oppel, 1811Genus *Caretta* Rafinesque, 1814*Caretta caretta* (Linnaeus, 1758)

MZUT R2977	ERITREA, Assàb. Felter don.	1 d
MZUT R2979	ITALY, Mediterranean Sea, Emilia Romagna, Comacchio (FE).	1 d
MZUT R3735	ITALY, Mediterranean Sea.	1 d
MACUT R8	w.d. <sup>1</sup> 1898, C. Bainotti don. <sup>3</sup>	1 sk <sup>2</sup>
MACUT R9	w.d. 1898, C. Bainotti don.	1 sk <sup>4</sup>
MACUT R10	w.d. 1898	1 sk <sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Caretta caretta*

This and other MACUT specimens of *Caretta caretta* were reported as coming by the vague indication "Mar Mediterraneo" [Mediterranean Sea].

<sup>2</sup> *Caretta caretta*

Pectoral girdle.

<sup>3</sup> Carlo Bainotti, sometimes reported as Carlo Bajnotti, was a master taxidermist in charge to Museum of Zoology of Turin. Between 1900 and 1904. Bainotti performed some surveys in eastern Africa where he collected many interesting specimen, some of them still preserved in the Turin zoological collections (Simondetti, 1943).

<sup>4</sup> *Caretta caretta*

Pelvic girdle.

<sup>5</sup> *Caretta caretta*

Pelvic girdle.

MACUT R11	w.d. 1898	1 c
MACUT R12	w.d. 1896	1 c
MACUT R98	w.d. 1899, C. Bainotti don.	1 sk <sup>6</sup>
MACUT R99	w.d. 1899, C. Bainotti don.	1 sk <sup>7</sup>
MACUT R101	w.d. 1899, C. Bainotti don.	1 sk <sup>8</sup>
MACUT R102	w.d. 1899, C. Bainotti don.	1 sk <sup>9</sup>
MACUT R107	w.d. 1899, C. Bainotti don.	1 sk <sup>10</sup>
MACUT R108	w.d. 1899, C. Bainotti don.	1 sk <sup>11</sup>
MACUT R109	w.d. 1899, C. Bainotti don.	1 sk <sup>12</sup>
MACUT R110	w.d. 1899, C. Bainotti don.	1 sk <sup>13</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> *Caretta caretta*  
Cervical vertebra.

<sup>7</sup> *Caretta caretta*  
Cervical vertebra.

<sup>8</sup> *Caretta caretta*  
Cervical vertebra.

<sup>9</sup> *Caretta caretta*  
Cervical vertebra.

<sup>10</sup> *Caretta caretta*  
Cervical vertebra.

<sup>11</sup> *Caretta caretta*  
Cervical vertebra.

<sup>12</sup> *Caretta caretta*  
Cervical vertebra.

<sup>13</sup> *Caretta caretta*  
Cervical vertebra.

MZUT R2911	w.d. <sup>14</sup>	1 d
MZUT R2938	w.d.	1 d
MZUT R2970	w.d.	1 d
MZUT R2980	w.d.	1 d
MZUT R3006	w.d.	1 d
MZUT R3723	w.d.	1 d
MZUT R3730	w.d.	1 d
MZUT R3731	w.d.	1 d
MZUT R3724	w.d.	1 d <sup>15</sup>
MZUT R3732	w.d.	1 d <sup>16</sup>
MACUT R7	w.d.	1 sk <sup>17</sup>
MACUT R123	w.d.	1 sk <sup>18</sup>
MZUT R3733	w.d.	1 d
MZUT R3734	w.d.	1 d
MACUT R6	w.d.	1 sk <sup>19</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> *Caretta caretta*

Most of these specimens without data were already signalled by Camerano (1891). Their provenance is unknown, but, in analogy to others, we may assume that they were originated from the Mediterranean Sea.

<sup>15</sup> *Caretta caretta*

Carapax.

<sup>16</sup> *Caretta caretta*

Carapax.

<sup>17</sup> *Caretta caretta*

Carapax.

<sup>18</sup> *Caretta caretta*

Carapax

<sup>19</sup> *Caretta caretta*

Complete skeleton assembled with separated bones.

MACUT R13	w.d.	1 sk <sup>20</sup>
MACUT R14	w.d.	1 sk <sup>21</sup>
MACUT R15	w.d.	1 sk <sup>22</sup>
MACUT R18	w.d.	1 sk <sup>23</sup>
MACUT R16	w.d.	1 sk <sup>24</sup>
MACUT R19	w.d.	1 sk <sup>25</sup>
MACUT R17	w.d.	1 sk <sup>26</sup>
MACUT R20	w.d.	1 sk <sup>27</sup>
MACUT R34	w.d.	1 c
MACUT R143	w.d.	1 c
MACUT R144	w.d.	1 c
MACUT R139	w.d.	1 sk <sup>28</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> *Caretta caretta*  
Femur.

<sup>21</sup> *Caretta caretta*  
Femur.

<sup>22</sup> *Caretta caretta*  
Tibia and fibula.

<sup>23</sup> *Caretta caretta*  
Tibia and fibula.

<sup>24</sup> *Caretta caretta*  
Humerus.

<sup>25</sup> *Caretta caretta*  
Humerus.

<sup>26</sup> *Caretta caretta*  
Radio and ulna.

<sup>27</sup> *Caretta caretta*  
Radio and ulna.

<sup>28</sup> *Caretta caretta*  
Pelvic girdle.

Genus *Chelonia* Latreille in Sonnini & Latreille, 1801

*Chelonia mydas* (Linnaeus, 1758)

MZUT R2990	ERITREA, Assàb. Felter don.	1 d
MZUT R2983	ERITREA, Assàb. Felter don.	1 d
MZUT R3683	INDONESIA, Borneo, Samarinda. 1903, G. Bonarelli expedition <sup>29</sup>	2 j
MZUT R2988	ECUADOR, Guayas, Puntilla de Santa Elena. 1898, E. Festa leg.	1 d
MZUT R3736	w.d.	1 d
MZUT R3737	w.d.	1 d

Genus *Eretmochelys* Fitzinger, 1843

*Eretmochelys imbricata* (Linnaeus, 1766)

MZUT R2918	ERITREA, Assàb. Felter don.	1 d
MZUT R2978	ERITREA, Red Sea. <sup>30</sup>	1 d
MZUT R2973	INDONESIA, Java, Onrust. III. 1867, "Regia Pirocorvetta Magenta" expedition. <sup>31</sup>	1 d
MZUT R3678	PANAMA.	1 j
MZUT R3029	w.d.	1 d

<sup>29</sup> Guido Bonarelli was a geologist, paleontologist and anthropologist. His stay in Indonesia was documented in the contribution "Trenta Mesi a Borneo" (Feruglio, 1951-1952).

<sup>30</sup> *Eretmochelys imbricata*  
Carapax.

<sup>31</sup> *Eretmochelys imbricata*  
Bought from a Malaise fisherman in March 1867.

MZUT R3738	w.d.	1 d
MZUT R2952	w.d. <sup>32</sup>	1 d

Superfamily **TRIONYCHOIDEA** Fitzinger, 1826

Family **KINOSTERNIDAE** Agassiz, 1857

Genus *Kinosternon* Spix, 1824

*Kinosternon* cf. *alamosae* Berry & Legler, 1980

MZUT R2012	MEXICO.	1 e
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*Kinosternon leucostomum* Duméril & Bibron, 1851

MZUT R2011	PANAMA, Darién, Pita Lagoon. <sup>33</sup> 1895, E. Festa don.	1 e
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MZUT R2013	ECUADOR, Vinces. <sup>34</sup>	3 e
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*Kinosternon scordioides* (Linnaeus, 1766)

MZUT R2014	SURINAM. Franck don.	2 e
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MZUT R2077	MEXICO. 1855-1859, F. Craveri expedition. <sup>35</sup>	2 e
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MACUT R21	MEXICO.	1 sk
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<sup>32</sup> *Eretmochelys imbricata*

This specimen was accompanied by the label reporting “Oceano Indiano e Americano” [Indian and American Ocean].

<sup>33</sup> *Kinosternon leucostomum*  
Specimen quoted by Peracca (1896).

<sup>34</sup> *Kinosternon leucostomum*  
Three specimens quoted by Peracca (1904 b).

<sup>35</sup> Federico Craveri (1815-1890) was an eminent chemist, geologist and naturalist who resided in Mexico for 18 years beginning in the 1840. He collected many zoological specimens during long surveys in Mexico and in the U.S.A., from 1855 to 1859. Part of this material is still present in the collections housed in Turin. (Gruson, 1972).



MZUT R3864 BOLIVIA, Caiza.<sup>36</sup> 1 e  
A. Borelli don.<sup>37</sup>

*Kinosternon* cf. *sonoriense* LeConte, 1854

MZUT R3869 w.d. 2 e

Family **TRIONYCHIDAE** Bell, 1828

Genus *Lissemys* Smith, 1931

*Lissemys punctata* Lacépède, 1788

MZUT R2892 SRI LANKA. 1 e

MZUT R2065 MYANMAR, Rangoon. 3 e  
1886, L. Fea leg.<sup>38</sup>

Genus *Amyda* Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, 1809

*Amyda cartilaginea* (Boddaert, 1770)

MZUT R3030 VIETNAM. 1 d  
VI.1866, Eyriès don., “Regia Pirocorvetta Magenta” expedition.<sup>39</sup>

MZUT R2010 CHINA. 1 j  
1866, “Regia Pirocorvetta Magenta” expedition.

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<sup>36</sup> *Kinosternon scorpioides*

Peracca (1897) refers of one specimen from Aguirenda Mission (no more found in the collection), and two others from Caiza.

<sup>37</sup> Alfredo Borelli was an entomologist working at Turin Museum. He made several travels in Latin America and collected important zoological materials (Emery, 1894; Zavattari, 1943).

<sup>38</sup> Leonardo Fea worked at that time at the Natural History Museum of Genoa. He made several naturalistic travels, the most important of which was the one in Myanmar. During his travels he collected many animals and plants, half of which was free to sell to other persons and institutions. For this reason, part of his material is currently housed in the Natural History Museum in London, and a few specimens are also present in the Turin collection (Gestro, 1904).

<sup>39</sup> In 1865 Filippo De Filippi, at that time director of the Zoological Museum, began, as scientific chief, a travel around the world on the “Regia Pirocorvetta Magenta”. De Filippi died at Hong Kong in 1867 during the travel. Anyhow, the rich material came to the Museum at the end of the expedition in 1868 (Lessona, 1867; Giglioli, 1876).

MZUT R3684	INDONESIA, Java.	2 j
MZUT R2984	w.d.	1 d

Genus *Pelodiscus* Fitzinger, 1835

*Pelodiscus sinensis* (Wiegmann, 1834)

MZUT R2020	CHINA. Shangai. 1866, "Regia Pirocorvetta Magenta" expedition.	1 j
MZUT R2040	CHINA. Shangai. 1866, "Regia Pirocorvetta Magenta" expedition. <sup>40</sup>	1 e
MACUT R28	CHINA, Shangai, Whampoo River. XII.1866 "Regia Pirocorvetta Magenta" expedition.	1 sk <sup>41</sup>
MACUT R29	CHINA, Shangai, Whampoo River. XII.1866 "Regia Pirocorvetta Magenta" expedition.	1 sk <sup>42</sup>
MACUT R30	CHINA, Shangai, Whampoo River. XII.1866 "Regia Pirocorvetta Magenta" expedition.	1 sk <sup>43</sup>
MACUT R32	CHINA, Shangai, Whampoo River. XII.1866 "Regia Pirocorvetta Magenta" expedition.	1 sk <sup>44</sup>

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<sup>40</sup> *Pelodiscus sinensis*

Female. The label reports the indication *Trionyx perocellatus*.

<sup>41</sup> *Pelodiscus sinensis*

Carapax and plastron.

<sup>42</sup> *Pelodiscus sinensis*

Pelvic girdle.

<sup>43</sup> *Pelodiscus sinensis*

Pelvic girdle.

<sup>44</sup> *Pelodiscus sinensis*

Unidentified bones.

Superfamily **TESTUDINOIDEA** Batsch, 1788Family **CHELYDRIDAE** Gray, 1831Genus *Chelydra* Schweigger, 1814*Chelydra serpentina* (Linnaeus, 1758)

MZUT R2875	ECUADOR, Gualaquiza, 800 m a.s.l. 1895-1896, E. Festa expedition. <sup>45</sup>	1 e
MZUT R2922	ECUADOR, Vinces. 1897, E. Festa don.	1 d
MZUT R2957	ECUADOR, Vinces. 1897, E. Festa don.	1 d
MZUT R2965	ECUADOR, Vinces. 1897, E. Festa don.	1 d
MZUT R3022	w.d. <sup>46</sup> M. G. Peracca don. <sup>47 48</sup>	1 d
MACUT R31	ECUADOR. 1898, E. Festa don.	1 sk <sup>49</sup>
MACUT R22	w.d. 1903, M. G. Peracca don.	1sk <sup>50</sup>

<sup>45</sup> Enrico Festa was assistant and then honorary vice-director the Museum. He made numerous travels to the Near East (Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Palestine) and to Central and South America (Panama, Ecuador), where he collected many thousands of specimens of mammals, birds, reptiles, fish, invertebrates, which now form a large part of the Turin zoological collections (Arcangeli, 1940).

<sup>46</sup> *Chelydra serpentina*

The specimen is accompanied by the vague indication "America centrale" [Central America].

<sup>47</sup> Mario Giacinto Peracca has been a famous herpetologist working in Turin Museum. Particularly interested in keeping living animals, he imported reptiles from all around the world. Then he took most of them in large vivaria built in his estate located in Chivasso, near Turin (Andreone & Gavetti, 2007). Interestingly, after their death the animals were deposited in the herpetological collection of Turin Museum, of which they constitute an important part.

<sup>48</sup> *Chelydra serpentina*

Specimen bought from a dealer.

<sup>49</sup> *Chelydra serpentina*

Unidentified bones.

<sup>50</sup> *Chelydra serpentina*

Pectoral girdle.

MACUT R23	w.d. 1903, M. G. Peracca don.	1 sk <sup>51</sup>
MACUT R135	w.d. 1903, M. G. Peracca don.	1 sk <sup>52</sup>
MZUT R3870	w.d.	1 e
MACUT R35	w.d.	1 sk <sup>53</sup>

Family **GEOMYDIDAE** Theobald, 1868

Genus *Cuora* Gray, 1856

*Cuora amboinensis* (Daudin, 1801)

MZUT R2085	INDONESIA, Amboina.	1 j
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Genus *Heosemys* Stejneger, 1902

*Heosemys annandalii* (Boulenger, 1903)

MZUT R3762	w.d.	1 d
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Genus *Kachuga* Gray, 1856

*Kachuga* sp.

MZUT R3871	INDIA, Mahè, Malabar. Deschamps don.	2 j
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Genus *Malayemys* Lindholm, 1931

*Malayemys subtrijuga* (Schlegel & Müller, 1844)

MZUT R3865	w.d.	1 e
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<sup>51</sup> *Chelydra serpentina*

Pelvic girdle.

<sup>52</sup> *Chelydra serpentina*

Vertebral column.

<sup>53</sup> *Chelydra serpentina*

Mounted skeleton.

MZUT R3866	w.d.	4 e
MZUT R3867	w.d.	1 e
MZUT R3868	w.d.	1 e
Genus <i>Mauremys</i> Gray, 1869		
<i>Mauremys caspica</i> (Gmelin, 1774)		
MZUT R3872	GREECE, Rhodes Island, Kattabia. E. Festa don.	8 e 3 j
MZUT R2947	GREECE, Crete, La Canea, Fontana Cavussa. Di Boccard don.	1 d <sup>54</sup>
MZUT R3739	GREECE, Crete, La Canea, Fontana Cavussa. Di Boccard don.	1 d <sup>55</sup>
MZUT R2007	GREECE, Rhodes. 1893, E. Festa expedition.	1 j
MZUT R2008	CYPRUS, Trikomo.	1 e
MZUT R2015	CYPRUS. 1854, E. Truqui don. <sup>56</sup>	1 j
MZUT R2017	CYPRUS. G. Cecconi don. <sup>57</sup>	2 e
MZUT R3750	w.d.	1 d
MACUT R24	w.d.	1 sk <sup>58</sup>

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<sup>54</sup> *Mauremys caspica*

Carapax.

<sup>55</sup> *Mauremys caspica*

Carapax.

<sup>56</sup> Eugenio Truqui was consul in Cyprus, and died in Rio de Janeiro in 1860. He donated insects collected in Cyprus (Baudi di Selve, 1870).

<sup>57</sup> *Mauremys caspica*

Most likely this is material quoted by Cecconi (1899), and collected in the small lake of Spatarikò.

<sup>58</sup> *Mauremys caspica*

Complete skeleton.

***Mauremys leprosa*** (Schweigger, 1812)

MZUT R2005	TUNISIA. 1892 E. Festa leg.	1 e
MZUT R2006	ALGERIA. F. Lataste don.	1 e
MZUT R2009	MOROCCO, Fez. G. Bertoldo don.	1 e
MZUT R3873	w.d. M. G. Peracca don.	4 e <sup>59</sup>

***Mauremys reevesii*** (Gray 1831)

MZUT R2035	CHINA, Shanghai. M. G. Peracca don. <sup>60</sup>	2 e
MZUT R3685	CHINA.	1 j
MZUT R2876	w.d.	1 e

Genus ***Melanochelys*** Gray, 1869***Melanochelys trijuga*** (Schweigger, 1812)

MZUT R2055	INDIA, Madras. M. G. Peracca don.	1 e
MZUT R3874	w.d.	1 e
MZUT R3875	w.d.	3 e
MZUT R3876	w.d.	1 e

<sup>59</sup> *Mauremys caspica*  
Carapax.

<sup>60</sup> *Mauremys reevesii*

Peracca (1891) referred of the overwintering of one specimen of this specimen (likely one of the two currently preserved) at wild state in his garden in Chivasso (Turin).

Family **EMYDIDAE** Rafinesque, 1815Genus *Glyptemys* Agassiz, 1857*Glyptemys insculpta* (LeConte, 1830)

MZUT R2950 NORTH AMERICA. 1 d

Genus *Emys* Duméril, 1806*Emys orbicularis* (Linnaeus, 1758)MZUT R2016 ITALY, Veneto, Venice (VE). 3 e  
10 jMZUT R2019 ITALY, Sardinia, Nuoro (NU). 1 e  
1904, Chironi don.

MZUT R3877 ITALY, Sardinia, S. Antioco (CA). 1 e

MZUT R2018 ITALY, Sardinia. 1 e

MZUT R2034 ITALY, Piemonte, Ceresole d'Alba (CN). 1 e  
X.1906, E. Festa don.MZUT R2054 ITALY, Puglia, Otranto (LE), Alimini Lake. 2 e  
M. G. Peracca don.MZUT R2056 ITALY, Campania, Napoli surroundings (NA). 2 e  
Monticelli don.MZUT R2066 ITALY, Piemonte, Moncalieri 3 e  
surroundings (TO).  
M. G. Peracca don.

MZUT R3680 ALGERIA, Oran. 2 j

MZUT R2039 GEORGIA, Tiflis - Tbilisi. 1 e  
1862, F. De Filippi expedition.

MZUT R3741 w.d. 1 d

MZUT R3742 w.d. 1 d

MACUT R37 w.d. 1 sk <sup>61</sup>

MACUT R142 w.d. 1 sk <sup>62</sup>

Genus *Malaclemys* Gray, 1844

*Malaclemys terrapin* (Schoepff, 1793)

R3740 w.d. 1 d

Genus *Trachemys* Agassiz, 1857

*Trachemys scripta* (Schoepf, 1792)

MACUT R25 PANAMA. 1 sk <sup>63</sup>

MACUT R26 PANAMA. 1 sk <sup>64</sup>

MACUT R27 PANAMA. 1 sk <sup>65</sup>

MZUT R2955 w.d. <sup>66</sup>  
1814, Paris Museum don. 1 d <sup>67</sup>

MZUT R2079 w.d. 2 e

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<sup>61</sup> *Emys orbicularis*

Skull with separated bones (preserved in a glass case).

<sup>62</sup> *Emys orbicularis*

Complete skeleton with arterial vascular system.

<sup>63</sup> *Trachemys scripta*

Pelvic girdle.

<sup>64</sup> *Trachemys scripta*

Pectoral girdle.

<sup>65</sup> *Trachemys scripta*

Ten vertebrae.

<sup>66</sup> *Trachemys scripta*

The label reported "America del Nord" [North America].

<sup>67</sup> *Trachemys scripta*

Carapax.



Genus *Terrapene* Merrem, 1820

*Terrapene carolina* (Linnaeus, 1758)

MACUT R38	U.S.A., South Carolina. 1904, M. G. Peracca don.	1 sk <sup>68</sup>
MACUT R39	U.S.A., North Carolina. 1910, M. G. Peracca don.	1 sk <sup>69</sup>
MZUT R2033	U.S.A., Carolina. <sup>70</sup> M. G. Peracca don.	2 e

*Terrapene ornata* (Agassiz, 1857)

MZUT R3878	w.d.	1 e
MZUT R3879	w.d.	3 e
MZUT R3880	w.d.	2 e
MZUT R3881	w.d.	1 e
MZUT R3882	w.d.	1 e
MZUT R3883	w.d.	1 e

Family **PLATYSTERNIDAE** Gray, 1869

Genus *Platysternon* Gray, 1831

*Platysternon megacephalum* Gray, 1831

MZUT R2917	CHINA. Callery don.	1 d
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<sup>68</sup> *Terrapene carolina*

Complete skeleton.

<sup>69</sup> *Terrapene carolina*

Complete skeleton.

<sup>70</sup> *Terrapene carolina*

Differently from the other two specimens (skulls) the two ethanol-preserved specimen referred to this museum number are without more precise information on the geographic locality (if North or South Carolina) and date of donation.

Family **TESTUDINIDAE** Batsch, 1788Genus *Aldabrachelys* Loveridge & Williams, 1957*Aldabrachelys gigantea* (Schweigger, 1812)

R2915	SEYCHELLES. M. G. Peracca don.	1 d
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Genus *Astrochelys* Gray, 1823*Astrochelys radiata* (Shaw, 1802) <sup>71</sup>

MZUT R2964	MADAGASCAR. M. G. Peracca don.	1 d
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MZUT R3003	MADAGASCAR. 1899, M. G. Peracca don	1 d
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MACUT R40	MADAGASCAR. 1899, M. G. Peracca don.	1 sk <sup>72</sup>
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MACUT R42	MADAGASCAR. 1899, M. G. Peracca don.	1 sk <sup>73</sup>
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MACUT R43	MADAGASCAR. 1899, M. G. Peracca don.	1 sk <sup>74</sup>
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MACUT R44	MADAGASCAR. 1899, M. G. Peracca don.	1 sk <sup>75</sup>
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MACUT R45	MADAGASCAR. 1899, M. G. Peracca don.	1 sk <sup>76</sup>
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<sup>71</sup> *Astrochelys radiata*

The Malagasy species formerly attributed to the genus *Geochelone* (*G. radiata* and *G. yniphora*) are ascribed to a different genus (*Astrochelys*) because of the paraphyletic status of the *Geochelone* group (Bour, 1980); however, this change is not widely accepted (Pedrono & Smith, 2003).

<sup>72</sup> *Astrochelys radiata*

Vertebrae.

<sup>73</sup> *Astrochelys radiata*

Vertebrae, male.

<sup>74</sup> *Astrochelys radiata*

Bones of girdles, male.

<sup>75</sup> *Astrochelys radiata*

Pectoral girdle, male.

<sup>76</sup> *Astrochelys radiata*

Pelvic girdle, male.

MACUT R46	MADAGASCAR. 1904, M. G. Peracca don.	1 sk <sup>77</sup>
MACUT R47	MADAGASCAR. 1904, M. G. Peracca don.	1 sk <sup>78</sup>
MACUT R48	MADAGASCAR. 1904, M. G. Peracca don.	1 sk <sup>79</sup>
MACUT R49	MADAGASCAR. 1904, M. G. Peracca don.	1 sk <sup>80</sup>
MACUT R112	MADAGASCAR. 1904, M. G. Peracca don.	1 sk <sup>81</sup>
MACUT R134	MADAGASCAR. 1899, M. G. Peracca don.	ap <sup>82</sup>
MACUT R131	MADAGASCAR. M. G. Peracca don.	ap <sup>83</sup>
MACUT R132	MADAGASCAR. M. G. Peracca don.	ap <sup>84</sup>
MACUT R133	MADAGASCAR. M. G. Peracca don.	ap <sup>85</sup>

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<sup>77</sup> *Astrochelys radiata*

Bones of girdles.

<sup>78</sup> *Astrochelys radiata*

Bones of girdles.

<sup>79</sup> *Astrochelys radiata*

Bones of girdles.

<sup>80</sup> *Astrochelys radiata*

Bones of girdles.

<sup>81</sup> *Astrochelys radiata*

Part of vertebral column.

<sup>82</sup> *Astrochelys radiata*

Penis, male.

<sup>83</sup> *Astrochelys radiata*

Penis, male.

<sup>84</sup> *Astrochelys radiata*

Tongue and trachea, male.

<sup>85</sup> *Astrochelys radiata*

Trachea, male.

MACUT R50	w.d.	1 sk <sup>86</sup>
MACUT R51	w.d.	1 sk <sup>87</sup>
MACUT R41	w.d.	1 sk <sup>88</sup>

Genus *Chersina* Gray, 1831

*Chersina angulata* (Schweigger, 1812)

MZUT R3035	SOUTH AFRICA, Cape of Good Hope. M. G. Peracca don.	1 d
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Genus *Chelonoidis* Fitzinger, 1835

*Chelonoidis carbonaria* (Spix, 1824)

MZUT R2921	BRAZIL, Pará. 1901, M. G. Peracca don.	1 d
MZUT R2941	BRAZIL, Pará. 1900, M. G. Peracca don.	1 d
MZUT R3034	BRAZIL, Pará. V. Ghiliani travel. <sup>89</sup>	1 d
MZUT R3032	BRAZIL. M. G. Peracca don.	1 d
MZUT R2992	BRAZIL.	1 d
MACUT R54	BRAZIL, Parà. 1901, M. G. Peracca don.	1 sk <sup>90</sup>

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<sup>86</sup> *Astrochelys radiata*

Pectoral girdle, male.

<sup>87</sup> *Astrochelys radiata*

Pelvic girdle, male.

<sup>88</sup> *Astrochelys radiata*

Vertebrae.

<sup>89</sup> Vittore Ghiliani (1812-1878) was a well-known entomologist at Turin Museum. He performed research surveys in Sardinia, Sicily, Spain and southern America, where he collected many specimens, several of them actually preserved in the Turin Museum (Conci, 1969).

<sup>90</sup> *Chelonoidis carbonaria*

Bones of girdles, male.

MACUT R55	BRAZIL, Parà. 1901, M. G. Peracca don.	1 sk <sup>91</sup>
MACUT R56	BRAZIL. 1908, M. G. Peracca don.	1 sk <sup>92</sup>
MACUT R57	BRAZIL. 1908, M. G. Peracca don.	1 sk <sup>93</sup>
MACUT R104	BRAZIL, Parà. 1901, M. G. Peracca don.	1 sk <sup>94</sup>
MACUT R105	BRAZIL, Parà. 1901, M. G. Peracca don.	1 sk <sup>95</sup>
MACUT R111	BRAZIL, Parà. 1901, M. G. Peracca don.	1 sk <sup>96</sup>
MACUT R127	BRAZIL, Parà. 1901, M. G. Peracca don.	ap <sup>97</sup>
MACUT R113	w.d. 1901, M. G. Peracca don.	1 sk <sup>98</sup>
MACUT R33	w.d. M. G. Peracca don.	1 sk <sup>99</sup>

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<sup>91</sup> *Chelonoidis carbonaria*

Bones of girdles, male.

<sup>92</sup> *Chelonoidis carbonaria*

Bones of girdles, male.

<sup>93</sup> *Chelonoidis carbonaria*

Bones of girdles, male.

<sup>94</sup> *Chelonoidis carbonaria*

Vertebrae, male.

<sup>95</sup> *Chelonoidis carbonaria*

Vertebrae, male.

<sup>96</sup> *Chelonoidis carbonaria*

Vertebrae, male.

<sup>97</sup> *Chelonoidis carbonaria*

Hyoid apparatus.

<sup>98</sup> *Chelonoidis carbonaria*

Vertebrae, male.

<sup>99</sup> *Chelonoidis carbonaria*

Vertebrae.

MACUT R52	w.d. M. G. Peracca don.	1 sk <sup>100</sup>
MACUT R53	w.d. M. G. Peracca don.	1 sk <sup>101</sup>
MZUT R3033	w.d.	1 d
MZUT R3743	w.d.	1 d <sup>102</sup>

***Chelonoidis chilensis*** (Gray, 1870)

MZUT R2058	ARGENTINA. M. G. Peracca don.	1 e
MACUT R62	ARGENTINA. 1899, M. G. Peracca don.	1 sk <sup>103</sup>
MACUT R63	ARGENTINA. 1899, M. G. Peracca don.	1 sk <sup>104</sup>

***Chelonoidis denticulata*** (Linnaeus, 1766)

MZUT R2025	VENEZUELA. 1857, Carrons de Villars don.	1 e
MACUT R58	PARAGUAY, Upper Paraguay, Rio Apa, 1897. A. Borelli don.	1 sk <sup>105-106</sup>

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<sup>100</sup> *Chelonoidis carbonaria*  
Girdles.

<sup>101</sup> *Chelonoidis carbonaria*  
Girdles.

<sup>102</sup> *Chelonoidis carbonaria*  
Carapax.

<sup>103</sup> *Chelonoidis chilensis*  
Pelvic girdle.

<sup>104</sup> *Chelonoidis chilensis*  
Pectoral girdle.

<sup>105</sup> *Chelonoidis denticulata*  
Skeleton referable to a male specimen quoted by Peracca (1895) as *Testudo tabulata*, and collected by A. Borelli.

<sup>106</sup> *Chelonoidis denticulata*  
Girdles and some vertebrae.

***Chelonoidis nigra*** (Quoy & Gaimard, 1824)

MZUT R3744	ECUADOR, Galápagos Archipelago.	1 d
MZUT R2935	ECUADOR, Galapagos Archipelago, South Albemarle Island. 1902, M. G. Peracca don.	1 d
MACUT R59	ECUADOR, Galápagos Archipelago, Albemarle Island. 1902, M. G. Peracca don.	1 sk <sup>107</sup>
MACUT R60	ECUADOR, Galápagos Archipelago, Albemarle Island. 1902, M. G. Peracca don.	1 sk <sup>108</sup>
MACUT R61	ECUADOR, Galápagos Archipelago, Albemarle Island. 1902, M. G. Peracca don.	1 sk <sup>109</sup>
MACUT R76	ECUADOR, Galápagos Archipelago, Albemarle Island. 1902, M. G. Peracca don.	1 sk <sup>110</sup>
MACUT R96	ECUADOR, Galápagos Archipelago. 1902, M. G. Peracca don.	1 sk <sup>111</sup>
MACUT R97	ECUADOR, Galápagos Archipelago. 1902, M. G. Peracca don.	1 sk <sup>112</sup>
MACUT R95	ECUADOR, Galápagos Archipelago. 1902, M. G. Peracca don.	1 sk <sup>113</sup>

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<sup>107</sup> ***Chelonoidis nigra***

Bones of forearm.

<sup>108</sup> ***Chelonoidis nigra***

Bones of a hind-leg.

<sup>109</sup> ***Chelonoidis nigra***

Vertebrae and other bones.

<sup>110</sup> ***Chelonoidis nigra***

Pelvic girdle.

<sup>111</sup> ***Chelonoidis nigra***

Pelvic girdle.

<sup>112</sup> ***Chelonoidis nigra***

Bones of a hind-leg.

<sup>113</sup> ***Chelonoidis nigra***

Vertebrae colum.

MACUT R136	ECUADOR, Galápagos Archipelago, Albemarle Island. 1902, M. G. Peracca don.	ap <sup>114</sup>
MACUT R137	ECUADOR, Galápagos Archipelago, Albemarle Island. 1902, M. G. Peracca don.	ap <sup>115</sup>
Genus <i>Geochelone</i> Fitzinger, 1835		
<i>Geochelone sulcata</i> (Miller, 1779)		
MZUT R2956	ERITREA, Mareb River. G. Muzioli leg., Perugia Museum exch.	1 d
MZUT R2976	ERITREA, Mareb River. Perugia Museum exch.	1 d
MACUT R115	ERITREA, Mareb, Tigré. 1897, Muzioli leg., Perugia Museum.	1 sk <sup>116</sup>
MACUT R116	ERITREA, Mareb, Tigré. 1897, Muzioli leg., Perugia Museum.	1 sk <sup>117</sup>
MACUT R120	ERITREA, Mareb, Tigré. 1897, Muzioli leg., Perugia Museum.	1 sk <sup>118</sup>
MACUT R121	ERITREA, Mareb, Tigré. 1897, Muzioli leg., Perugia Museum.	1 sk <sup>119</sup>
MACUT R122	ERITREA, Mareb, Tigré. 1897, Muzioli leg., Perugia Museum.	1 sk <sup>120</sup>

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<sup>114</sup> *Geochelone sulcata*  
Trachea.

<sup>115</sup> *Geochelone sulcata*  
Lungs.

<sup>116</sup> *Geochelone sulcata*  
Two feet.

<sup>117</sup> *Geochelone sulcata*  
Pelvic girdle.

<sup>118</sup> *Geochelone sulcata*  
Bony plates and vertebrae.

<sup>119</sup> *Geochelone sulcata*  
Bony plates.

<sup>120</sup> *Geochelone sulcata*  
Plastron.



MZUT R2966	ERITREA. 1898, Fatigati don. <sup>121</sup>	1 d
MZUT R2982	ERITREA.	1 d
MZUT R2946	ERITREA. M. G. Peracca don.	1 d
Genus <i>Stigmochelys</i> Gray, 1873		
<i>Stigmochelys pardalis</i> (Bell, 1828)		
MZUT R2913	KENYA, Kikuju. M. G. Peracca don.	1 d
MZUT R2991	ZAMBIA/ZIMBABWE, Zambezi River, between Kazungula and Bulawayo. 1896, L. Jalla don.	1 d
MZUT R2944	w.d. <sup>122</sup> M. G. Peracca don.	1 d
MACUT R64	w.d. <sup>123</sup> Salesian Missionaries don. <sup>124</sup>	1 sk
MACUT R103	w.d. <sup>125</sup> 1910, M. G. Peracca don.	1 sk <sup>126</sup>

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<sup>121</sup> *Geochelone sulcata*  
Carapax.

<sup>122</sup> *Stigmochelys pardalis*  
The label reports "Africa equatoriale" [Equatorial Africa].

<sup>123</sup> *Stigmochelys pardalis*  
On the old catalogue we found the indication "British East Africa".

<sup>124</sup> *Stigmochelys pardalis*  
Vertebrae, pectoral and pelvic girdles.

<sup>125</sup> *Stigmochelys pardalis*  
The label reports "East Africa, Kikyru".

<sup>126</sup> *Stigmochelys pardalis*  
Pectoral and pelvic girdles.

Genus *Gopherus* Rafinesque, 1832

*Gopherus polyphemus* (Daudin, 1801)

MZUT R2059	U.S.A., Carolina. M. G. Peracca don.	1 e
MZUT R2061	U.S.A., Texas. M. G. Peracca don.	3 e
MZUT R3884	w.d. <sup>127</sup> XII.1900, M. G. Peracca don.	1 e
MZUT R2060	w.d.	1 e

Genus *Homopus* Duméril & Bibron, 1835

*Homopus areolatus* (Thunberg, 1787)

MZUT R3885	w.d.	1 e
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Genus *Kinixis* Bell, 1827

*Kinixis belliana* (Gray, 1831)

MZUT R2032	ETHIOPIA. M. G. Peracca don.	2 e
MZUT R3886	ERITREA. 1902, P. Clivio don.	1 j

Genus *Indotestudo* Lindholm, 1929

*Indotestudo elongata* (Blyth, 1853)

MZUT R3899	SRI LANKA. 1900, M. G. Peracca don.	1 e
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<sup>127</sup> *Gopherus polyphemus*

This specimen simply reported "Nord America" [North America].

Genus *Testudo* Linnaeus, 1758*Testudo graeca* Linnaeus, 1758

MZUT R2939	GEORGIA. 1862, F. De Filippi expedition.	1 d
MZUT R2951	ALGERIA, Ouahran. VIII.1877.	1 d <sup>128</sup>
MZUT R3746	ALGERIA, Ouahran. 1877.	1 d <sup>129</sup>
MZUT R2024	LIBYA, Cirenaica, Merg. 1922, E. Festa don.	1 j
MZUT R2031	LIBYA, Cirenaica, Tolmetta. 1922, E. Festa leg.	1 e
MZUT R3682	LIBYA, Tripolitania, El Azizia. C. F. Parona leg. <sup>130</sup>	1 j
MZUT R2027	SYRIA/JORDAN, Palestine. E. Festa leg.	1 e
MZUT R2028	SYRIA/JORDAN, Palestine. 1893, E. Festa leg.	1 e
MZUT R3745	w.d.	1 d
MACUT R65	w.d. 1900.	1 c

<sup>128</sup> *Testudo graeca*

In the old manuscript catalogue we found: “ Comprato da un commerciante per £ 1,50. Agosto 1877” [Bought by an hawker for £ 1.50. August 1877].

<sup>129</sup> *Testudo graeca*

In the old manuscript catalogue we found: “ Comprato da un commerciante per £ 1,50. Agosto 1877” [Bought by an hawker for £ 1.50. August 1877].

<sup>130</sup> Carlo Felice Parona (1855-1939) was a paleontologist. He is known for a series of geopalontological works in Tripolitania and on fossils collected in Somalia and Eritrea (Sacco, 1939).

MACUT R66	w.d. VIII.1901.	1 c <sup>131</sup>
MACUT R67	w.d. VIII.1901.	1 c <sup>132</sup>
MACUT R68	w.d. VIII.1901.	1 c <sup>133</sup>
MACUT R128	w.d. 1877	ap <sup>134</sup>
MACUT R77	w.d.	ap <sup>135</sup>

***Testudo hermanni*** Gmelin, 1789<sup>136</sup>

MZUT R2023	ITALY, Sardinia, Istintino (SS). Frassetto don.	1 j
MZUT R2029	ITALY, Campania, Napoli surroundings (NA). Monticelli don.	2 e
MZUT R2030	ITALY, Piedmont.	5 e
MZUT R2954	GREECE, Corfù. 1884.	1 d
MZUT R2962	CROATIA, Pod-Dobromani. 28.V.1942, F. Sappa don.	1 d

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<sup>131</sup> *Testudo graeca*

Skulls of specimen bought from a living turtles dealer in August 1901.

<sup>132</sup> *Testudo graeca*

Idem 132.

<sup>133</sup> *Testudo graeca*

Idem 134.

<sup>134</sup> *Testudo graeca*

Liver.

<sup>135</sup> *Testudo graeca*

Eggs.

<sup>136</sup> *Testudo hermanni*

According to the recent work by de Lapparent *et al.* (2006), the species *hermanni* should be ascribed to a different genus, *Eurotestudo* de Lapparent de Broin, Bour, Parham & Perälä, 2006. Since the validity of this genus is not yet accepted by the herpetological community, we preferred to maintain the traditional nomenclature.

MACUT R78	w.d.	1 sk <sup>137</sup>
<b><i>Testudo horsfieldi</i></b> Gray, 1844		
MZUT R2948	TURKMENISTAN, Bakharden. M. G. Peracca don.	1 d
MZUT R2959	TURKMENISTAN, Bakharden. M. G. Peracca don.	1 d <sup>138</sup>
MZUT R3748	TURKMENISTAN, Bakharden. M. G. Peracca don.	1 d
MZUT R2874	“Transcaspia”. <sup>139</sup> M. G. Peracca don.	1 e
MZUT R3679	“Transcaspia”. St. Petersburg Museum don.	1 j
MZUT R3747	“Transcaucasia”. <sup>140</sup>	1 d
MACUT R69	TURKMENISTAN, Transcaspian Region. 1905, M. G. Peracca don.	1 sk <sup>141</sup>
MACUT R70	TURKMENISTAN, Transcaspian Region. 1905, M. G. Peracca don.	1 sk <sup>142</sup>

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<sup>137</sup> *Testudo hermanni*

Carapax and plastron.

<sup>138</sup> *Testudo horsfieldi*

The old catalogue reports: “350 versta (misura russa equivalente a 1,6 km) da Resuon - Ada, prima fermata della ferrovia transcaspia” [350 versta (Russian measure unit equivalent to 1,6 km) from Resuon - Ada, first stop of transcaspian railway].

<sup>139</sup> The Transcaspian Region, or Transcaspia identifies a territory to the east of the Caspian Sea, bounded on the south by Iranian Khorasan and Afghanistan, north by the former Russian province of Uralsk, northeast by the former Russian protectorates of Khiva and the Bukhara and to the southeast by Afghanistan.

<sup>140</sup> *Testudo horsfieldi*

The “Transcaucasia” is a territory shared by Azarbaijdzan, Georgia and Armenia.

<sup>141</sup> *Testudo horsfieldi*

Girdle.

<sup>142</sup> *Testudo horsfieldi*

Girdle.

MACUT R71 “Transcaucasia”. 1 sk <sup>143</sup>  
1908, M. G. Peracca don.

MACUT R72 “Transcaucasia”. 1 sk <sup>144</sup>  
1908, M. G. Peracca don.

***Testudo kleinmanni*** Lortet, 1883

MZUT R2026 LIBYA, Cirenaica, Derna. 1 e  
1922, E. Festa expedition.

MZUT R3681 LIBYA, Cirenaica, Bengasi. 1 j

MZUT R2080 w.d. 1 e  
M. G. Peracca don.

***Testudo marginata*** Schoepff, 1792

MZUT R2945 GREECE. 1 d  
M. G. Peracca don.

MZUT R2993 GREECE. 1 d  
M. G. Peracca don.

MZUT R2919 GREECE. <sup>145</sup> 1 d  
M. G. Peracca don.

MZUT R2940 GREECE. 1 d <sup>146</sup>

MACUT R106 ITALY, Sardinia. 1 sk <sup>147</sup>  
1911, M. G. Peracca don.

MZUT R2943 w.d. 1 d  
M. G. Peracca don.

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<sup>143</sup> ***Testudo horsfieldi***

Unidentified bones.

<sup>144</sup> ***Testudo horsfieldi***

Unidentified bones.

<sup>145</sup> ***Testudo marginata***

On the old catalogue the locality of provenience (Greece) of MZUT R2919 and MZUT R2940 are accompanied by a question mark, thus indicating a possible doubt.

<sup>146</sup> ***Testudo marginata***

The old catalogue reports “taken from a hawker in Turin”.

<sup>147</sup> ***Testudo marginata***

Complete skeleton.

MZUT R2920	w.d.	1 d <sup>148</sup>
MACUT R73	w.d.	1 sk <sup>149</sup>
MACUT R74	w.d.	1 sk <sup>150</sup>
MACUT R75	w.d.	1 sk <sup>151</sup>
MACUT R80	w.d. 1896, M. G. Peracca don.	ap <sup>152</sup>
MACUT R129	w.d. 1897, M. G. Peracca don.	ap <sup>153</sup>
MACUT R130	w.d. 1897, M. G. Peracca don.	ap <sup>154</sup>
MACUT R146	w.d. 1897, M. G. Peracca don.	ap <sup>155</sup>
MACUT R79	w.d. 1896	ap <sup>156</sup>
MACUT R81	w.d.	ap <sup>157</sup>

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<sup>148</sup> *Testudo marginata*

The old catalogue reports "taken from a hawkler in Turin".

<sup>149</sup> *Testudo marginata*

Some vertebrae.

<sup>150</sup> *Testudo marginata*

Pectoral girdle, female.

<sup>151</sup> *Testudo marginata*

Pelvic girdle, female.

<sup>152</sup> *Testudo marginata*

Penis.

<sup>153</sup> *Testudo marginata*

One egg.

<sup>154</sup> *Testudo marginata*

Penis.

<sup>155</sup> *Testudo marginata*

Penis.

<sup>156</sup> *Testudo marginata*

Trachea and lungs.

<sup>157</sup> *Testudo marginata*

Ovary.

Suborder **PLEURODIRA** Cope, 1864Family **CHELIDAE** Gray, 1825Genus *Acanthochelys* Gray, 1873*Acanthochelys radiolata* (Mikan, 1820)

MZUT R2960	w.d. <sup>158</sup> 1854, Olivieri don.	1 d
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Genus *Chelodina* Fitzinger, 1826*Chelodina longicollis* (Shaw, 1794)

MZUT R2923	AUSTRALIA, Queensland, Avon River. 15.XI.1839, Preiss don.	1 d <sup>159</sup>
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*Chelodina* sp.

MACUT R145	w.d.	1 c
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Genus *Chelus* Duméril, 1806*Chelus fimbriatus* (Schneider, 1783)

MZUT R2963	GUYANA	1 d
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Genus *Elseya* Gray, 1867*Elseya latisternum* Gray, 1867

MZUT R3887	AUSTRALIA.	1 e
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Genus *Emydura* Bonaparte, 1836*Emydura macquarrii* (Gray, 1831)<sup>158</sup> *Acanthochelys radiolata*

This sample was accompanied by the vague indication "America meridionale" [South America].

<sup>159</sup> *Chelodina longicollis*

In the old catalogue we have found: "Hab. In aqua subsalsa fluivi avon (York)". Female.



MZUT R3888 AUSTRALIA. 1 e

MZUT R2078 AUSTRALIA. 1 e

Genus *Hydromedusa* Wagler, 1830

*Hydromedusa tectifera* Cope, 1870

MZUT R2022 URUGUAY, Montevideo. 2 j  
1878, Panizzi don.

MZUT R2057 ARGENTINA, Buenos Aires. 1 e  
M. G. Peracca don.

MZUT R2062 w.d.<sup>160</sup> 1 e

Genus *Phrynops* Wagler, 1830

*Phrynops hilarii* (Duméril & Bibron, 1835)

MZUT R2076 ARGENTINA, Rio La Plata. 1 e  
IV.1901, M. G. Peracca don.

MZUT R2958 ARGENTINA, Rio La Plata. 1 d  
M. G. Peracca don.

MACUT R1 ARGENTINA, Rio La Plata. 1 sk  
M. G. Peracca don.<sup>161</sup>

MZUT R2021 BRAZIL. 1 j

*Phrynops* sp.

MZUT R3898 w.d. 1 d

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<sup>160</sup> *Hydromedusa tectifera*

The old label reports: «*Hydromedusa maximiliani*. Australia.» The Genus *Hydromedusa* comes from South America.

<sup>161</sup> *Phrynops hilarii*

Pectoral and pelvic girdles.

Family **PELOMEDUSIDAE** Cope, 1868Genus *Pelomedusa* Wagler, 1830*Pelomedusa subrufa* (Lacépède, 1788)

MZUT R2036	ERITREA, Saganeiti. 1901, M. G. Peracca don.	2 e
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Genus *Pelusios* Wagler, 1830*Pelusios sinuatus* (Smith, 1838)

MZUT R2003	ZAMBIA/ZIMBABWE, Road from Kazungula to Bulawaio, Zambezi River. L. Jalla don.	2 j
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Family **PODOCNEMIDIDAE** Cope, 1868Genus *Podocnemis* Wagler, 1830*Podocnemis expansa* (Schweigger, 1812)

MZUT R2986	PERU/ BRAZIL, Amazon River. 1896, M. G. Peracca don.	1 d
MACUT R2	PERU/BRAZIL, Amazon River. 1898, M. G. Peracca don.	ap <sup>162</sup>
MACUT R3	PERU/BRAZIL, Amazon River. 1898, M. G. Peracca don.	ap <sup>163</sup>
MACUT R4	PERU/BRAZIL, Amazon River. 1899, M. G. Peracca don.	ap <sup>164</sup>
MACUT R5	PERU/BRAZIL, Amazon River. 1898, M. G. Peracca don.	ap <sup>165</sup>

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<sup>162</sup> *Podocnemis expansa*  
Tongue and trachea.

<sup>163</sup> *Podocnemis expansa*  
Eggs.

<sup>164</sup> *Podocnemis expansa*  
Vertebrae.

<sup>165</sup> *Podocnemis expansa*  
Three bones of girdles.

*Podocnemis unifilis* Troschel, 1848

MZUT R2004	BOLIVIA, Barraca Rio Madidi. 1891-1892, L. Balzan expedition. <sup>166</sup>	1 j
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*Podocnemis vogli* Müller, 1935

MZUT R3687	w.d. <sup>167</sup>	1 j
MZUT R3889	w.d.	1 e

Subclass **ARCHOSAURIA** Cope, 1869

Order **CROCODYLIA** Gmelin, 1789

Suborder **EUSUCHIA** Huxley, 1875

Family **ALLIGATORIDAE** (Cuvier, 1807)

Genus *Alligator* (Cuvier, 1807)

*Alligator mississippiensis* (Daudin, 1801 [1802])

MZUT R2969	U.S.A., New Orleans. 1859	1 d
MZUT R1892	U.S.A. Turin Aquarium don.	2 j
MZUT R3005	U.S.A.	1 d
MZUT R3751	U.S.A.	1 d
MZUT R3752	U.S.A.	1 d
MACUT R85	w.d. 1907, A. Nardo di Barge don.	1 sk <sup>168</sup>

<sup>166</sup> Luigi Balzan (1865-1893) was an Italian explore and scientist. From 1890 to 1892 he carried out a survey in southern America, from Paraguay to Andes (Balzan, 1931).

<sup>167</sup> *Podocnemis vogli*

The two specimens simply report "Sud America" [South America].

<sup>168</sup> *Alligator mississippiensis*

Incomplete skeleton.

MACUT R138	w.d. 1912, M. G. Peracca don.	1 sk
MACUT R141	w.d. 1896	1 sk <sup>169</sup>
MACUT R91	w.d. 1896	1 c <sup>170</sup>
MACUT R36	w.d. 1906	ap <sup>171</sup>
MACUT R83	w.d.	ap <sup>172</sup>
MACUT R124	w.d.	ap <sup>173</sup>

Genus *Caiman* Spix, 1825

*Caiman crocodilus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

MZUT R1887	BOLIVIA, Barraca on Rio Madidi. 1892, L. Balzan expedition. M. G. Peracca don.	1 e
MZUT R3001	ARGENTINA. S.A.R. Prince of Piedmont don.	1 d
MZUT R1889	SURINAM.	3 e
MZUT R2972	PANAMA, Darién. E. Festa don.	1 d
MZUT R1890	PANAMA.	1 j

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<sup>169</sup> *Alligator mississippiensis*  
Incomplete skeleton; skull MRSN R91.

<sup>170</sup> *Alligator mississippiensis*  
Belongs to skeleton MRSN R141.

<sup>171</sup> *Alligator mississippiensis*  
Heart.

<sup>172</sup> *Alligator mississippiensis*  
Foetus.

<sup>173</sup> *Alligator mississippiensis*  
Tongue.

MACUT R89	PARAGUAY, Upper Paraguay. <sup>174</sup> 1893-1894 A. Borelli don.	1 c
MACUT R94	BRAZIL, Mato Grosso, Corumbà. 1899, A. Borelli don.	1 c <sup>175</sup>
MZUT R1886	w.d. <sup>176</sup>	1 j
MACUT R129	w.d. 1900, A. Savio don.	1 sk <sup>177</sup>
MZUT R3757	w.d.	1 e
MACUT R140	w.d.	1 c
MACUT R125	w.d.	ap <sup>178</sup>
<b><i>Caiman latirostris</i></b> (Daudin, 1801 [1802])		
MACUT R118	BRAZIL, Paramirini, S. Paulo, Limeira. XII.1924	1 c <sup>179</sup>
MZUT R3753	w.d.	1 d
MZUT R3754	w.d.	1 d
MACUT R90	w.d.	1 c
<b><i>Caiman</i> sp.</b>		
MACUT R83	ARGENTINA, Santa Fé. A. Nardo di Barge don.	1 sk <sup>180</sup>

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<sup>174</sup> *Caiman crocodilus*

Likely referable to an individual quoted by Peracca (1895), and collected by A. Borelli near Asuncion.

<sup>175</sup> *Caiman crocodilus*

Without mandibula.

<sup>176</sup> *Caiman crocodilus*

The specimen is labelled with a vague locality, "America meridionale" [South America].

<sup>177</sup> *Caiman crocodilus*

Trunk.

<sup>178</sup> *Caiman crocodilus*

Penis.

<sup>179</sup> *Caiman latirostris*

Incomplete and broken.

<sup>180</sup> *Caiman* sp.

Without skull.

MACUT R93      COLOMBIA.      sk <sup>181</sup>  
 1899, F. Masino don.

Genus *Paleosuchus* (Gray, 1862)

*Paleosuchus palpebrosus* (Cuvier, 1807)

MZUT R1888      BRAZIL, Mato Grosso, Urucum. <sup>182</sup>      1 e  
 1899, Borelli leg.

MZUT R2995      w.d. <sup>183</sup>      1 d

Family **CROCODYLIDAE** (Cuvier, 1807)

Genus *Crocodylus* Laurenti, 1768

*Crocodylus acutus* (Cuvier, 1807)

MZUT R1857      PANAMA, Darién, Rio Sabana. <sup>184</sup>      3 e  
 1895-1896 E. Festa leg.

MZUT R3674      ECUADOR, Balzar, Rio Daule.      1 e  
 1895-1896, E. Festa leg.

MZUT R3894      ECUADOR, Balzar, Rio Daule.      2 e  
 1895-1896 E. Festa leg.

MZUT R2975      ECUADOR.      1 d  
 E. Festa don.

MZUT R2999      ECUADOR.      1 d  
 E. Festa don.

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<sup>181</sup> *Caiman* sp.

Sample represented by 25 teeth. The old catalogue reports: "Alligator".

<sup>182</sup> *Paleosuchus palpebrosus*

Specimen quoted by Peracca (1904).

<sup>183</sup> *Paleosuchus palpebrosus*

The specimen simply reports "Sud America" [South America].

<sup>184</sup> *Crocodylus acutus*

Peracca (1896) referred on two individuals from the Rio Sabana, captured by E. Festa. Likely the third specimen was captured successively and not reported in the paper.

MZUT R1860	CUBA.	1 e
MZUT R1856	w.d.	1 j
<b><i>Crocodylus</i> cf. <i>acutus</i> (Cuvier, 1807)</b>		
MZUT R3755	<sup>185</sup>	1 d
<b><i>Crocodylus cataphractus</i> Cuvier, 1825</b>		
MZUT R1861	BENIN. M. G. Peracca leg.	1 e
MACUT R82	BENIN. 1901, M. G. Peracca don.	ap <sup>186</sup>
<b><i>Crocodylus niloticus</i> Laurenti, 1768</b>		
MZUT R1858	CONGO DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, Molito. ten. Rossi don.	1 e
MZUT R1859	SOMALIA, Bardera. Testa - Fochi don.	2 j
MZUT R1884	CONGO DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC. Gariazzo don.	1 e
MZUT R2971	SUDAN, Wadi Halfa.	1 d <sup>187</sup>
MZUT R2929	ERITREA.	1 d
MZUT R3008	ERITREA.	1 d
MACUT R84	EGYPT, Cairo. 1904, O. Caffaratti, C.F. Parona	1 c <sup>188</sup>

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<sup>185</sup> ***Crocodylus* cf. *acutus***

This specimen shows an unusual number of nuchal scales (10 instead than 6).

<sup>186</sup> ***Crocodylus cataphractus***

Heart.

<sup>187</sup> ***Crocodylus niloticus***

A handwritten piece of paper, in the jar, reports: "Egitto, Wadi Halfa. Lessona".

<sup>188</sup> ***Crocodylus niloticus***

Obtained from an archaeological excavation.

MACUT R86	ERITREA, Mareb. 1899.	1 c
MACUT R87	ERITREA, Mareb. 1903.	1 c <sup>189</sup>
MACUT R88	ERITREA, Mareb. 1899.	1 c <sup>190</sup>
MACUT R147	ERITREA, Mareb. 1899.	1 sk <sup>191</sup>
MZUT R1885	MADAGASCAR, Moramanga.	1 e
MZUT R3007	MADAGASCAR. M. G. Peracca don.	1 d
MZUT R2790	w.d. <sup>192</sup>	1 e
MZUT R3274	w.d. <sup>193</sup>	1 e
MZUT R3761	w.d.	1 d
MZUT R3762	w.d.	1 d
MZUT R3763	w.d.	1 d
MZUT R3891	w.d.	3 j
MZUT R3893	w.d.	1 e
MZUT R3895	w.d.	1 e

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<sup>189</sup> *Crocodylus niloticus*  
Incomplete.

<sup>190</sup> *Crocodylus niloticus*  
Without mandibula.

<sup>191</sup> *Crocodylus niloticus*  
Lower jaw.

<sup>192</sup> *Crocodylus niloticus*  
The old catalogue reports "Fiume Zambesi" [Zambesi River].

<sup>193</sup> *Crocodylus niloticus*  
The old catalogue reports "Congo".



MACUT R117	w.d.	1 c <sup>194</sup>
MACUT R119	w.d.	1 sk <sup>195</sup>
MACUT R126	w.d.	1 sk <sup>196</sup>
MZUT R3892	w.d.	1 e

***Crocodylus palustris*** Lesson, 1831

MZUT R1862	INDIA, Mahé.	4 j
MZUT R2974	INDIA, Malabar. Father G. Beccaro don.	1 d
MZUT R3000	INDIA, Malabar. Father G. Beccaro don.	1 d
MZUT R3758	INDIA, Malabar. Father G. Beccaro don.	1 d
MZUT R3759	INDIA, Malabar. Father G. Beccaro don.	1 d
MZUT R3760	w.d.	1 d

***Crocodylus porosus*** Schneider, 1801

MZUT R3764	w.d.	1 e
MZUT R3896	w.d.	1 d

***Crocodylus siamensis*** Schneider, 1801

MZUT R2981	VIETNAM, Thu Dan Mot. VI.1866, "Regia Pirocorvetta Magenta" expedition.	1 d
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<sup>194</sup> ***Crocodylus niloticus***  
Skull with separated bones.

<sup>195</sup> ***Crocodylus niloticus***  
This is a large skeleton with its osteoderms.

<sup>196</sup> ***Crocodylus niloticus***  
Complete skeleton.

*Crocodylus* sp.

MZUT R3897	w.d.	1 d <sup>197</sup>
MZUT R3902	w.d.	1 d

Genus *Osteolaemus* Cope, 1861

*Osteolaemus tetraspis* Cope, 1861

MZUT R3756	w.d.	1 d
MZUT R3890	w.d.	1 e

Family **GAVIALIDAE** Adams, 1854

Genus *Gavialis* Opperl, 1811

*Gavialis gangeticus* (Gmelin, 1789)

MZUT R1891	INDIA, Varanasi, Gange River. G. De Cristoforis <sup>198</sup> don.	1 j
MZUT R2168	INDIA.	1 d
MZUT R2996	INDIA.	1 d
MZUT R3761	INDIA.	1 d
MACUT R92	w.d.	1 c

<sup>197</sup> *Crocodylus* sp.

This specimen is disposed in a diorama-case.

<sup>198</sup> Luigi De Cristoforis (1803-1837) was a nobleman and entomologist. His collections, merged in 1832, constituted a large part of the basis of the Milan Museum (Conci & Poggi, 1996).

## DISCUSSION

The historical collection of chelonians and crocodiles housed at Turin is particularly rich (Cei, 1989), and totally it includes 59 species of chelonians and 13 species of loricates. The total number of specimens is 202 preserved in ethanol, 117 are dry-stuffed ones, 126 are skeletons or skeleton parts, and 24 soft anatomical parts are preserved in liquid. The latter important material is referred to anatomical samples, such as single and mounted skeleton parts, and soft anatomical parts preserved in liquid, mostly derived from the fresh specimens before being stuffed. All this shows the great relevance to be accorded to this collection, for either the historical importance or taxonomy.

Looking more in detail to the provenience of the specimens we may appreciate that most of them derives from the activity of M.G. Peracca. As it was stated by Andreone & Gavetti (2007), the taxonomical activity of this eminent herpetologist and curator at the Zoological Museum of Turin met his “amateur” energy as an “ante litteram” terrarium keeper. In fact, most of the turtles were evidently obtained alive. They were for certain kept for some time, and sometimes bred, in his big glasshouse built at Chivasso, and only after their death they were donated to the museum. This is often specified in the label accompanying the specimen, but sometimes information are clearly lacking and we can only hypothesise that Peracca donated them, although this is highly likely. In some other cases, the specimens were obtained in exchange by Peracca with other herpetologists and institutions of that age. Finally, in other cases, the turtles were obtained during the expeditions sponsored by the Museum, or organised by collaborating people: it is the situation of the several expeditions made by E. Festa, or of the world circumnavigation by the Pirocorvetta Magenta.

The values of the specimens can also be seen under a double point of view: expositive and scientific. Within the rich herpetological collection housed in Turin, the chelonians and the Loricates are the only group that may play a considerable expositive role (excluding some large stuffed ophidians, such as pythons, boas and cobras). Especially the turtles and the tortoises are indeed well prepared, and are now – after a restoration – largely available for expositive purposes. Just as an example, a wonderful specimen of *Astrochelys radiata* is currently utilised to enrich the renewed exhibit destined to Madagascar in the so-called “historical museum of zoology”, a part of the Turin Museum where the old and historical vertebrate specimens are presented in a “old style”, recreating the atmosphere of the zoological museum as it was presented in the mid decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century (Anonymous, 1935). All these considerations stress once more how the herpetological collection of Turin University is indeed an unique scientific and cultural patrimony that it is worth to valorise, and that join the great tradition with a high scientific value, according to the modern view of natural history museums (Davis, 2001).

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## RIASSUNTO

*Catalogo critico della collezione erpetologica dell'Università di Torino. II. Chelonia e Crocodylia.*

Viene presentato il catalogo della collezione di Cheloni e Loricati presenti nel Museo Regionale di Scienze Naturali di Torino ed appartenenti al materiale storico dell'Università di Torino. Il materiale, complessivamente rappresentato da 59 specie di testuggini e di tartarughe e da 13 specie di coccodrilli e affini, è particolarmente importante sia da un punto di vista storico, sia scientifico, in quanto composto da esemplari in gran parte importati fra il Secolo XIX e le prime decadi del Secolo XX. Buona parte degli esemplari furono importati direttamente e privatamente dal Conte M.G. Peracca, assistente al Museo, che li allevò in serre e terreni privati, e furono donati al museo dopo il loro decesso. Altri esemplari interessanti sono stati catturati durante spedizioni sostenute economicamente dal museo, come quelli di E. Festa e di A. Borelli, nonché dalla circumnavigazione del globo effettuata dalla "Regia Pirocorvetta Magenta". Gran parte degli esemplari attualmente conservati è tassidermizzata e preparata a secco, mentre esemplari di ridotte dimensioni sono conservati in alcool. In ultimo, di particolare importanza citiamo il materiale anatomico derivato da esemplari conservati in toto, e consistente di scheletri montati, parti scheletriche separate (compresi crani) e organi interni.

Parole chiave: Erpetologia, Collezione, Catalogo, Cheloni, Loricati.

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