

# Hermann tortoise



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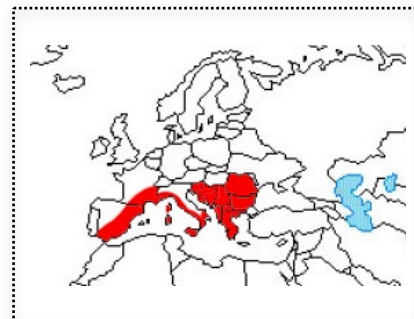
MRCVS, GPCert (ExAP), PgCert (ExAP)  
Medicine and Surgery of Exotic and Zoo Animals

**Legislation:** included in Appendix II CITES

**Origin:** Italy (including the major islands), southern regions of Spain and France to Romania and Bulgaria, Corsica

**Habitat:** pine forests, hilly areas, wooded areas, coastal environments

**Characteristics:** measuring 13-20 cm in length. The colour of the carapace is clear with black edges on the scute. It can be distinguished from the *T. hermanni boettgeri* by its smaller size, the black spots that run parallel on the plastron and a yellow spot present on both cheeks. The supracudal shield is divided into 2 parts.



**Dimorphism:** the males are smaller, they have quite a concave plastron, the tail is longer and wider at the base and has the cloacal opening outside the carapace margins. The horny case is well developed. The females, as well as being larger, have a flat plate.

## **Breeding in United Kingdom:**

In Mediterranean areas this specimen can live outdoors all year. In this country, due to the peculiarity of the weather, more attention is required for breeding.

The ideal condition would be an enclosed garden (burying the net to prevent escaping), with many plants, hiding places and shaded areas. Watch out for potential predators such as foxes, rats and dogs; (cats are not usually a problem). Do not forget a bowl of water that should be changed daily. In the cold season controlled lethargy is recommended of about 3-4 months; this could be in a vivarium placed indoors, such as in a garage or shed, to protect the animal from too severe temperatures and high humidity. A safe alternative could also be a fridge: this guarantees constant humidity and a temperature of 4°C. During hibernation weigh your animal every 3-4 weeks, to assess the correct sleeping period.

**One month before and 2-3 weeks after hibernation it is a good idea to take your tortoise to an exotic Vet for a complete check up. Remember to bring a faecal sample to test for intestinal parasites.**

**Diet:** *herbivorous*

90% will be made up of "grass", while the remaining 10% will consist of fruit and vegetables. For example, you could plant directly in the enclosure plants on which the animal feeds freely so they are always fresh (dandelion, plantain, mallow, chicory, hibiscus); the diet can be supplemented daily by administering other vegetables. Hay must always be available. **A correct and balanced diet is the best way to prevent malformations during growth.**

Plants that should not be present in the garden and accessible to the animal include: ranunculus, oleander, ivy, ferns.

**Never administer:** food for dogs and cats, bread, pasta, legumes, bananas, citrus fruits, milk and dairy products, animal origin food .

**Free App:** available on the major app stores "**The tortoise table**".

