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DATA DEFICIENT

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Geographical range

Amazing Species: Chinese Horseshoe Crab

The **Chinese Horseshoe Crab**, *Tachypleus tridentatus*, is listed as 'Data Deficient' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. It is found in Southeast Asia and has a north-south range from Japan to the coast of Kalimantan. The Chinese Horseshoe Crab is the largest of its species and is distinguished by its size.

Multiple stressors have caused steep declines in nearly all Asian horseshoe crab populations. Chinese Horseshoe Crabs are harvested for use in the biomedical and pharmaceutical industries, as well as a source of food for human consumption. It is also threatened by loss of critical habitat, and due to its long time to maturity it is particularly vulnerable to overexploitation. It has suffered serious declines throughout its range due to unmanaged fishing and unchecked coastal development.

It is now recognized there is an urgent need for a conservation strategy focused on all Asian horseshoe crabs. Regulations and management systems have to be put in place and enforced, and more research and a greater public awareness of the threats facing these crabs are needed for the long-term protection of this extraordinary species.

www.iucnredlist.org
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