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TITLE: A Bibliography of Geochelone elephantopus

AUTHOR &
INSTITUTION: Kent R. Beaman
Department of Biology
Loma Linda University

DATE: 1985

INTRODUCTION

There are many species of animals whose present day existence is dependent upon man's attempts to insure their survival. One such example is the giant tortoise endemic to the Galapagos Islands. These tortoises are now extinct on all but six of the larger islands, and even these populations are threatened with extinction.

Due to the early work of Darwin (1875) and the uniqueness of the Galapagos fauna, international attention has been focused on these islands for further exploration and study. Through the combined conservation and management efforts of the Charles Darwin Research Station (CDRS) and the Galapagos National Park Service, research and study of this environment is being continued. As a result, the surviving populations of giant tortoise have stabilized and some are returning to their former abundance.

Papers resulting from these studies provide interesting information for the novice and pertinent data for the scientist regarding the life histories of Galapagos fauna. The giant tortoise is an endangered animal and all information concerning it is of significance. This bibliography is intended to serve as a reference tool for those interested in the giant tortoise. It contains articles covering many aspects of tortoise natural history.

I hope that this bibliography, which is complete through 1984, will be useful in providing essential information for those interested in the Galapagos giant tortoise. All technical and popular articles which provide new data or insights have been included. I wish to acknowledge and thank the following individuals and institutions for their help in compiling this bibliography. The Charles Darwin Research Station and the Galapagos National Park Service, gave me the opportunity to study the giant tortoise in the islands. Loma Linda University provided research funds. Tina Blankenship, Virginia Hansen, Floyd Hayes, and Ernie Schwab reviewed the manuscript and gave helpful suggestions where needed. A special thanks to "Prof" Lester E. Harris, Jr., who stimulated my interest in herpetology and who has been a real inspiration.

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The Consortium of Aquariums, Universities and Zoos (C.A.U.Z.)
Donna FitzRoy Hardy, Ph.D., Network Coordinator
Consortium of Aquariums, Universities and Zoos
Department of Psychology
California State University, Northridge
Northridge, CA 91330
