



The Durable Desert Tortoise

Mark C. Grover, Lesley A. DeFalco



The Durable Desert Tortoise:

The Durable Desert Tortoise Colleen Stanley Bare,1979 Describes the physical characteristics and habits of the desert tortoise as well as the possibility of its extinction

Desert Tortoises Christopher Blomquist,2003-12-15 Describes the physical characteristics of the desert tortoise their reproduction and life cycle enemies and danger and their hibernation

Biology of North American Tortoises National Biological Survey (U.S.),1994 *The Sonoran Desert Tortoise* Thomas R. Van Devender,2019-04-15 One of the most recognizable animals of the Southwest the desert tortoise *Gopherus agassizii* makes its home in both the Sonoran and Mohave Deserts as well as in tropical areas to the south in Mexico Called by Tohono O odham people komik c ed or shell with living thing inside it is one of the few desert creatures kept as a domestic pet as well as one of the most studied reptiles in the world Most of our knowledge of desert tortoises comes from studies of Mohave Desert populations in California and Nevada However the ecology physiology and behavior of these northern populations are quite different from those of their southern Sonoran Desert and tropical cousins which have been studied much less Differences in climate and habitat have shaped the evolution of three races of desert tortoises as they have adapted to changes in heat rainfall and sources of food and shelter as the deserts developed in the last ten million years This book presents the first comprehensive summary of the natural history biology and conservation of the Sonoran and Sinaloan desert tortoises reviewing the current state of knowledge of these creatures with appropriate comparisons to Mohave tortoises It condenses a vast amount of information on population ecology activity and behavior based on decades of studying tortoise populations in Arizona and Sonora Mexico and also includes important material on the care and protection of tortoises Thirty two contributors address such topics as tortoise fossil records DNA analysis and the mystery of secretive hatchlings and juveniles Tortoise health is discussed in chapters on the care of captives and original data are presented on the diets of wild and captive tortoises the nutrient content of plant foods and blood parameters of healthy tortoises Coverage of conservation issues includes husbandry methods for captive tortoises an overview of protective measures and an evaluation of threats to tortoises from introduced grass and wildfires A final chapter on cultural knowledge presents stories and songs from indigenous peoples and explores their understanding of tortoises As the only comprehensive book on the desert tortoise this volume gathers a vast amount of information for scientists veterinarians and resource managers while also remaining useful to general readers who keep desert tortoises as backyard pets It will stand as an enduring reference on this endearing creature for years to come *Desert Tortoise (Gopherus Agassizii)* Mark C. Grover,Lesley A. DeFalco,1995 Provides an overview of extant desert tortoise literature summarizing literature on taxonomy morphology genetics and paleontology and paleoecology of the desert tortoise as well as its general ecology Literature on desert tortoise ecology encompasses distribution and habitat burrows and dens reproduction growth physiology feeding and nutrition mortality factors and behavior Information on habitat deterioration management of tortoises their legal status and tortoise husbandry is also

included The manuscript is a complete overview of existing literature including peer reviewed literature and other literature Information was compiled from materials available in 1991 *California Desert* United States. Congress. Senate. Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Subcommittee on Public Lands, National Parks, and Forests,1992 **Desert Tortoise (Mojave Population), Recovery Plan** ,1994 **Sonoran Desert Tortoise** Davis Hunter,2025-03-26 The Sonoran Desert Tortoise *Gopherus morafkai* is a resilient slow moving reptile uniquely adapted to the arid landscapes of the Sonoran Desert in the southwestern United States and northern Mexico It is a member of the Testudinidae family which includes land dwelling tortoises known for their domed shells and sturdy limbs Unlike aquatic turtles these tortoises are exclusively terrestrial relying on their robust physiology and behavioral adaptations to survive in an environment characterized by extreme temperatures limited water sources and sparse vegetation The Sonoran Desert Tortoise is primarily found in Arizona parts of California and Sonora Mexico It occupies rocky hillsides washes and desert scrublands where it can find shelter and food These tortoises are well known for their ability to dig deep burrows which help them escape the heat of summer and the cold of winter Their ability to store water in their bladder often referred to as their water reservoir allows them to survive long periods without drinking a critical adaptation in their harsh desert habitat Sonoran Desert Tortoises are herbivorous feeding on a variety of native plants including cacti grasses and wildflowers Their diet varies seasonally depending on food availability In addition to their ecological importance as seed dispersers these tortoises play a vital role in maintaining soil structure through their burrowing activities Although these tortoises have evolved to thrive in the Sonoran Desert they face increasing threats due to habitat destruction climate change predation and human interference Conservation efforts are in place to protect their populations as they are considered a vulnerable species Understanding the Sonoran Desert Tortoise is essential to ensuring its survival and maintaining the ecological balance of its native habitat Scientific Classification The Sonoran Desert Tortoise belongs to the taxonomic order Testudines which includes all turtles and tortoises Within this order it is classified under the family Testudinidae which consists of land dwelling tortoises adapted to terrestrial life The scientific classification of the Sonoran Desert Tortoise is as follows Kingdom Animalia Phylum Chordata Class Reptilia Order Testudines Family Testudinidae Genus *Gopherus* Species *Gopherus morafkai* Previously all desert tortoises in the southwestern United States were classified as *Gopherus agassizii* Mojave Desert Tortoise However genetic and morphological studies led to the distinction of the Sonoran Desert Tortoise as a separate species *Gopherus morafkai* in 2011 This classification change was based on significant differences in their geographic distribution habitat preference behavior and genetic makeup One key difference between the Mojave and Sonoran Desert Tortoises is their response to environmental conditions Mojave Desert Tortoises tend to spend more time in burrows to escape extreme heat while Sonoran Desert Tortoises are more active and capable of tolerating higher temperatures The split into two species has allowed conservationists to better address the specific needs of each population leading to more effective management strategies for

their protection Ward Valley National Research Council, Division on Earth and Life Studies, Commission on Geosciences, Environment and Resources, Committee to Review Specific Scientific and Technical Safety Issues Related to the Ward Valley, California Low-Level Radioactive Waste Site, 1995-06-10 The book examines specific scientific and technical safety issues related to the proposed low level radioactive waste site at Ward Valley California It includes among other issues evaluation of the potential for infiltration by shallow subsurface water contamination of ground water and the Colorado River damaging effects on the desert tortoise habitat and restoration of the native vegetation *California Desert: Palm Desert, CA, April 4, 1992* United States. Congress. Senate. Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Subcommittee on Public Lands, National Parks, and Forests, 1992

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