

An annotated bibliography of publications on marine turtles of Sri Lanka

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Paulus Edward Pieris Deraniyagala

This work is dedicated to Paulus Edward Pieris Deraniyagala (1900 - 1976)

Paulus Edward Pieris Deraniyagala was born on May 8, 1900. He was the eldest son of Sir Deraniyagala Paulus Edward Pieris, a noted historian, Chair of the prestigious Royal Asiatic Society (Ceylon Branch) and a renowned lawyer.

Deraniyagala saw his first turtles and crocodiles at the age of eight when he lived in the coastal town of Kalutara where his father was District Judge. These two groups of reptiles later became his chief herpetological interests, and he published extensively on their nesting habits and embryology. His first herpetological book, and perhaps one of the important herpetological milestones in the country, is "*Tetrapod reptiles of Ceylon vol. 1. Testudinales and Crocodylians*" (1939).

Deraniyagala graduated in Natural Sciences Tripos from Trinity College, Cambridge, proceeding to Harvard for his A.M. degree in Zoology. On his return to Sri Lanka in 1925, Deraniyagala was appointed Second Assistant Marine Biologist to the Ceylon Government, becoming Director of the Colombo Museum in 1940. He retired from the museum directorship in 1963.

During an active period spanning nearly 50 years (1927 to 1975), Deraniyagala published nearly 350 titles on

anthropology, archaeology, sociology, palaeontology and zoology (mammals, birds, fish, amphibians and reptiles). Most papers by Deraniyagala were profusely illustrated with his own watercolours and figures. In fact, there are few aspects of natural history that Deraniyagala did not publish extensively on. Furthermore, he was a champion boxer and an artist.

In the field of herpetology Deraniyagala published between 1927 and 1975 over 100 papers on turtles, crocodiles, varanids, lizards, snakes and a few on amphibians. They covered natural history, embryology, palaeontology, comparative morphology and taxonomy. Deraniyagala described over 50 recent and fossil herpetological taxa, all of them reptiles. Paulus Edward Pieris Deraniyagala died on December 1, 1976.

The bibliography: introductory notes

Marine turtles are a threatened group of reptiles in Sri Lanka. The flesh and eggs of most species are widely consumed by people. In addition, their nesting, foraging and feeding grounds are continually being disturbed and altered at an alarming rate. Hence, the present bibliography attempts to provide a complete reference to various aspects of marine turtles in Sri Lanka. The present work cites literature published in Western and Sinhala languages from 1852 to 2005.

Selection of references

The criteria used in listing a reference in this bibliography were if the particular reference (whether scientific, popular, historical, literary, etc.) either referred completely or in part to some aspect of marine turtles of Sri Lanka. This work includes complete books as well as sections or chapters of books, research papers, periodical articles, abstracts and mimeographed papers. Unpublished theses, dissertations and reports too are listed separately under “unpublished papers” as these are accessible to researchers. Newspaper articles are excluded. Of the 284 references cited, 215 works are available in the personal library of the compiler.

Plan of classification and arrangement of the material

The references categorised in the bibliography are listed alphabetically and chronologically. If the date of publication is not listed it is given as “ND”. In some papers a brief annotation of the contents are given within parenthesis at the end of the reference.

Sources consulted

1. The Library, University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya (including Department of Agriculture and the Department of Zoology libraries) Sri Lanka.
2. Colombo National Museum Library, Albert Crescent, Colombo 7, Sri Lanka.
3. Royal Asiatic Society Library, Colombo 7, Sri Lanka.

Checklist of marine turtles

(Note: (E) denotes English, (S) denotes Sinhala and (T) denotes Tamil.)

FAMILY: CHELONIIDAE. *Kasubu Kulaya* (S)
Genus: *Caretta* Rafinesque, 1814. *Kasbae Ganaya* (S) Species

1. *Caretta caretta* (Linnaeus, 1758). Loggerhead Sea Turtle (E); *Olugedi Kasbaeva*, Kannadi *Kasbaeva* (S)(= spectacled turtle); *Perunthalai Amai* (T)(= big headed turtle).

Genus: *Chelonia* Latreille, 1802. *Galkasbae Ganaya*

4. Wildlife and Nature Protection Society Library, 86 Rajamalwatta Road, Battaramulla, Sri Lanka.
5. Dept. of National Archives Library, 7, Reid Avenue, Colombo 7, Sri Lanka.
6. Library, Jersey Wildlife Trust, Jersey, UK.
7. Library, Centre for Herpetology, Madras Crocodile Bank Trust, Tamil Nadu, India.
8. Library, Japan Snake Institute, Yabazuka, Gunma, Japan.
9. Library, Forest Department, Rajamalwatta Road, Battaramulla, Sri Lanka.
10. Library, National Science Foundation, 47 Maitland Place, Colombo 7, Sri Lanka.
11. Library, Institute of Fundamental Studies, Hantana, Kandy, Sri Lanka.
12. Compiler’s personal library, 15/1 Dolosbage Road, Gampola, Sri Lanka.
13. Library, Turtle Conservation Project, Sri Lanka.

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(S) Species

2. *Chelonia mydas* (Linnaeus, 1758). Green turtle (E); *Gal Kasbaeva* (S)(= rock turtle), *Mas Kasbaeva* (S)(= flesh turtle), *Vali Kasbaeva* (S)(= sand turtle); *Pal Amai* (T)(= milk turtle).

Genus: *Eretmochelys* Fitzinger, 1843. *Leli Kasbae Ganaya* (S) Species

3. *Eretmochelys imbricata* (Linnaeus, 1766). Hawksbill Sea Turtle (E); *Pothu Kasbaeva* (S)(= scaly turtle), *Leli Kasbaeva* (S)(= skin turtle) ; *Nanja Amai* (T)(= poisonous turtle).

Genus: *Lepidochelys* Fitzinger, 1843. *Batu Kasbae Ganaya* (S) Species

4. *Lepidochelys olivacea* (Eschscholtz, 1829). Olive Ridley Sea Turtle (E); *Batu Kasbaeva* (S)(= dwarf turtle) or *Mada Kasbaeva* (S)(= mud turtle); *Pul Amai* (T)(= grass turtle).

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FAMILY: DERMOCHELYIDAE.

Genus: *Dermochelys* Blainville, 1816. *Dara Kasbae Ganaya* (S) Species

5. *Dermochelys coriacea* (Vandelli, 1761). Leatherback Sea Turtle (E); *Dara Kasbaeva* (S)(= ridge turtle) or *Tun Dara Kasbaeva* (S)(= three ridge turtle); *Dhoni Amai* (T)(= boat turtle).

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