

# INDO-PACIFIC Marine Turtles

## Identification guide



*Dermochelys coriacea* (Leatherback turtle)



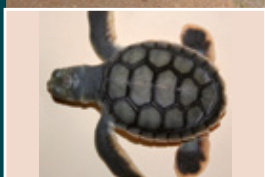
*Caretta caretta* (Loggerhead turtle)



*Eretmochelys imbricata* (Hawksbill turtle)



*Lepidochelys olivacea* (Olive ridley turtle)



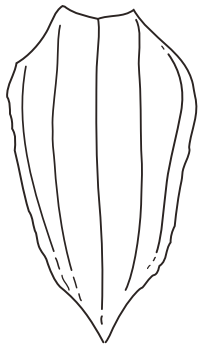
*Natator depressus* (Flatback turtle)



*Chelonia mydas* (Green turtle)

# Identification key

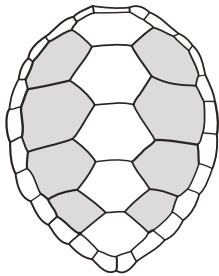
- Carapace with
- 5 distinct ridges
- no large scales
- no claws



*Dermochelys coriacea*  
(Leatherback turtle)

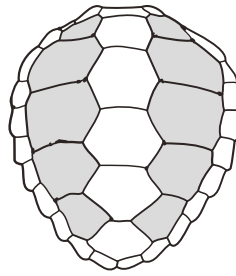
- Carapace with
- no continuous ridges
- large scales
- claws on flippers

4 pair costal scales



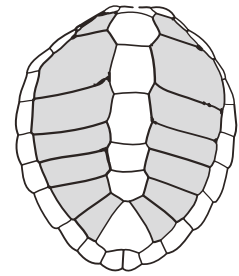
*Eretmochelys imbricata*  
(Hawksbill turtle)

- 5 pair (rarely 6) costal scales
- carapace longer than wide
- colour red-brown to brown
- no pores in scales of bridge



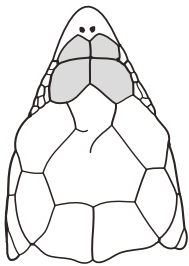
*Caretta caretta*  
(Loggerhead turtle)

- 6 pair or more costal scales
- carapace approximately circular
- colour grey green
- pores in scales of bridge



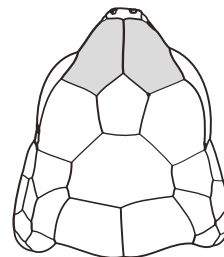
*Lepidochelys olivacea*  
(Olive ridley turtle)

- 2 pair prefrontal scales
- thick overlapping carapace scales



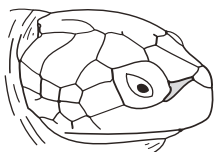
*Eretmochelys imbricata*  
(Hawksbill turtle)

- 1 pair prefrontal scales
- no thick overlapping carapace scales

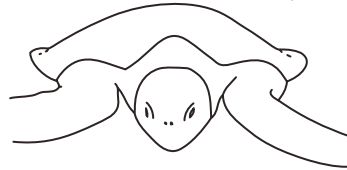


*Chelonia mydas*  
(Green turtle)

- carapace low domed with upturned edges
- preocular scales
- colour olive grey



*Natator depressus*  
(Flatback turtle)



- carapace high domed
- no preocular scales
- colour light to dark green with dark mottling

