

# Sexing Box Turtles

by William Tracy

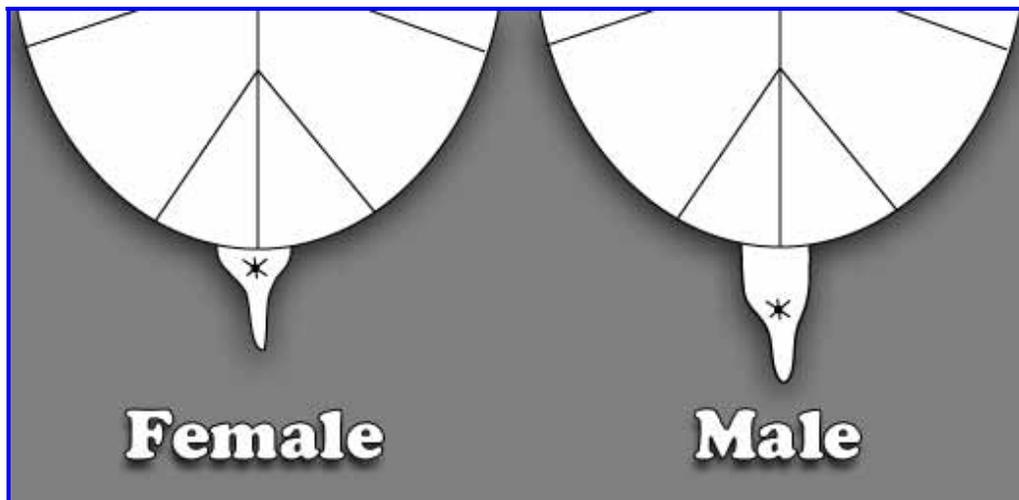
There are [two] basic things to look for when determining the sex of a box turtle, and many other turtles for that matter. I have listed and illustrated each, starting with what I feel to be the most reliable to the least reliable.



## 1. The tail - most reliable sex determining feature.

The tail of a male will have the cloaca [vent] positioned farther down the tail located beyond the edge of the plastron and in most cases, beyond the edge of the carapace as well. The tail will also be obviously longer and thick at the base than that of a female.

A female's will usually be much smaller with the cloaca located close to the body.



## 2. Coloration



This is the most obvious, and the first thing anyone notices about a box turtle.

The eyes of a male are usually bright red. Males will also tend to be brightly colored, especially around the head, neck and front legs.

Females will tend to have dark brown to reddish brown eyes, and are usually the drabber sex.

**This is the least reliable method of sex determination.  
I have seen females with red eyes, and some are quite colorful.**