

**DISTRIBUTION OF THE CENTRAL ASIAN TORTOISE
AGRIONEMYS HORSFIELDII (GRAY, 1844)
IN UZBEKISTAN (RANGE, REGIONAL
AND LANDSCAPE DISTRIBUTION, POPULATIONS DENSITY)**

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The Central Asian tortoise distribution in Uzbekistan is described on the basis of our analysis of findings at 287 localities. All these localities with their locations have been mapped. The history of the propagation and formation of the habitat of the species is provided. It has been revealed that the tortoise is widely settled in desert landscapes. The area of its habitat is 67% of the territory of the republic (about 300,000 sq. km). However, the territory with higher population densities (> 10 animals per ha) occupies about 0.6% of this territory. The agricultural development of desert areas in 1950 – 80 significantly shrank the habitat. But the arable land area has not been expanded for the last 25 years. Therefore, the main cause of the population decrease is legal and illegal catching. This catching is local but, as a result, about 100,000 animals are annually withdrawn from nature.

Key words: *Agrionemys horsfieldii*, spatial distribution, population density, Uzbekistan

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