

## New records of the turtle *Trachemys venusta callirostris* in the Central Andes of Colombia

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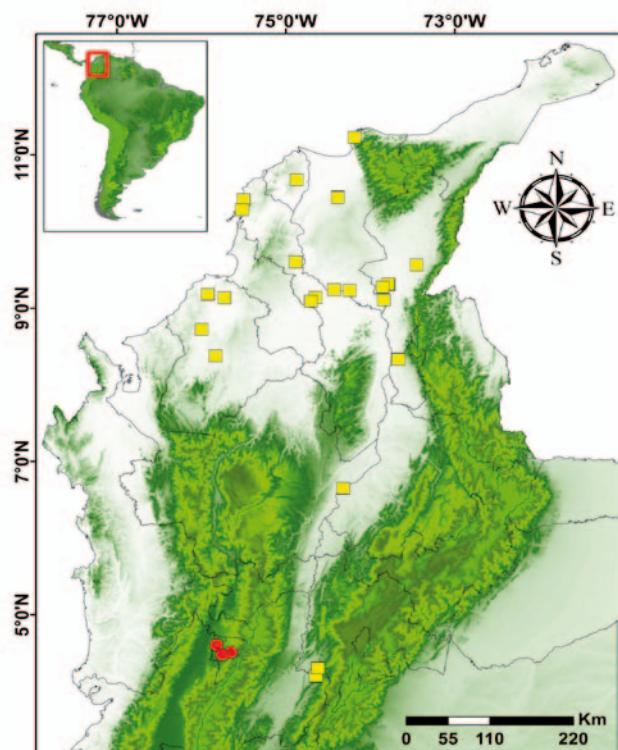
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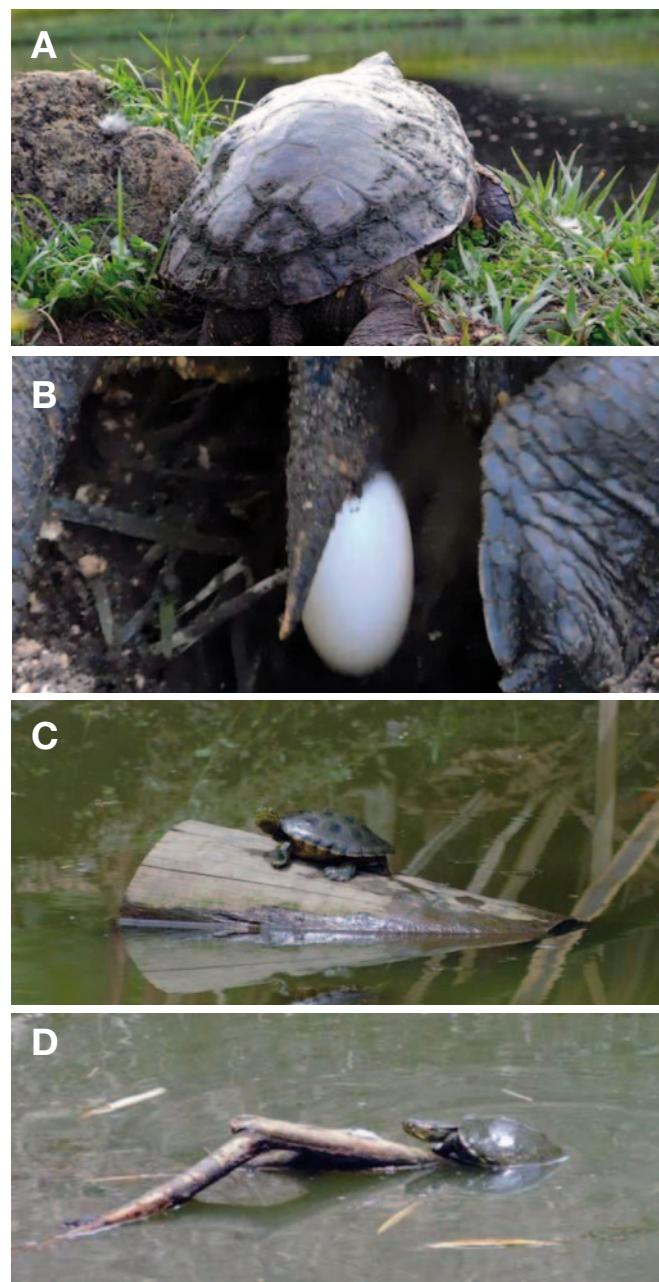
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The turtle, *Trachemys venusta callirostris* (sensu Fritz et al., 2012, and Vargas-Ramírez et al., 2017) is of medium size with a straight carapace length (SCL) between 19-25 cm (Páez et al., 2012) although some individuals can reach up to 35 cm (Rueda-Almonacid et al., 2007; Páez et al., 2012). Diagnostic morphological characters of *T. v. callirostris* are: 1) yellow longitudinal stripes along the neck and a wide red, orange or yellow-orange postorbital band that does not come into contact with the eye; 2) the neck, limbs, vertebral, costal and marginal shields have long yellow lines, and 3) the presence of large rounded blotches of black colour bordered by yellowish areolas (Pritchard & Trebbau, 1984; Rueda-Almonacid et al., 2007; Bock et al., 2010). Currently, this species is known



**Figure 1.** Distribution of *T. v. callirostris* in Colombia. Yellow squares: historical records (Rueda-Almonacid et al., 2007; Páez et al., 2012; Restrepo et al., 2014, and SibColombia <https://www.sibcolombia.net>); Red circles: records reported in this short-note



**Figure 2. A)** Female of *T. v. callirostris* nesting in an open area near an artificial lake; **B)** Egg laying; and **C)** and **D)** Juveniles in the municipality of Armenia and Quimbaya, respectively

in Colombia from the Caribbean and Magdalena basins (Fig. 1; Rueda-Almonacid et al., 2007; Páez et al., 2012; Restrepo et al., 2014).

During field trips between March 2017 and March 2018, we recorded the presence of *T. v. callirostris* in two artificial lakes at the Department of Quindío, Central Andes of Colombia (Figs. 2A, 2C and 2D); specifically, at the southern of the municipality of Armenia ( $4^{\circ}28'47.6''$  N,  $75^{\circ}45'4.3''$  W) and the municipality of Quimbaya ( $4^{\circ}36'27.5''$  N,  $75^{\circ}49'16.7''$  W). In addition, in the collection of Amphibians and Reptiles of the University of Quindío, there are two individuals (ARUQ-374, ARUQ-231) collected in the municipality of Calarcá ( $4^{\circ}30'44.712''$  N,  $75^{\circ}39'6.641''$  W). Altogether, those turtles represent the first published record of the species in the whole western versant of the Central Andes of Colombia (Fig. 1). The presence of this species in the department of Quindío may possibly because the intentional release of unwanted pets (Rueda-Almonacid et al., 2007); however, observations in March 2017 of a female nesting and laying six eggs (Fig. 2B), suggest the possibility of the establishment of viable populations of *T. v. callirostris* in the region.

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